GOLD KEY

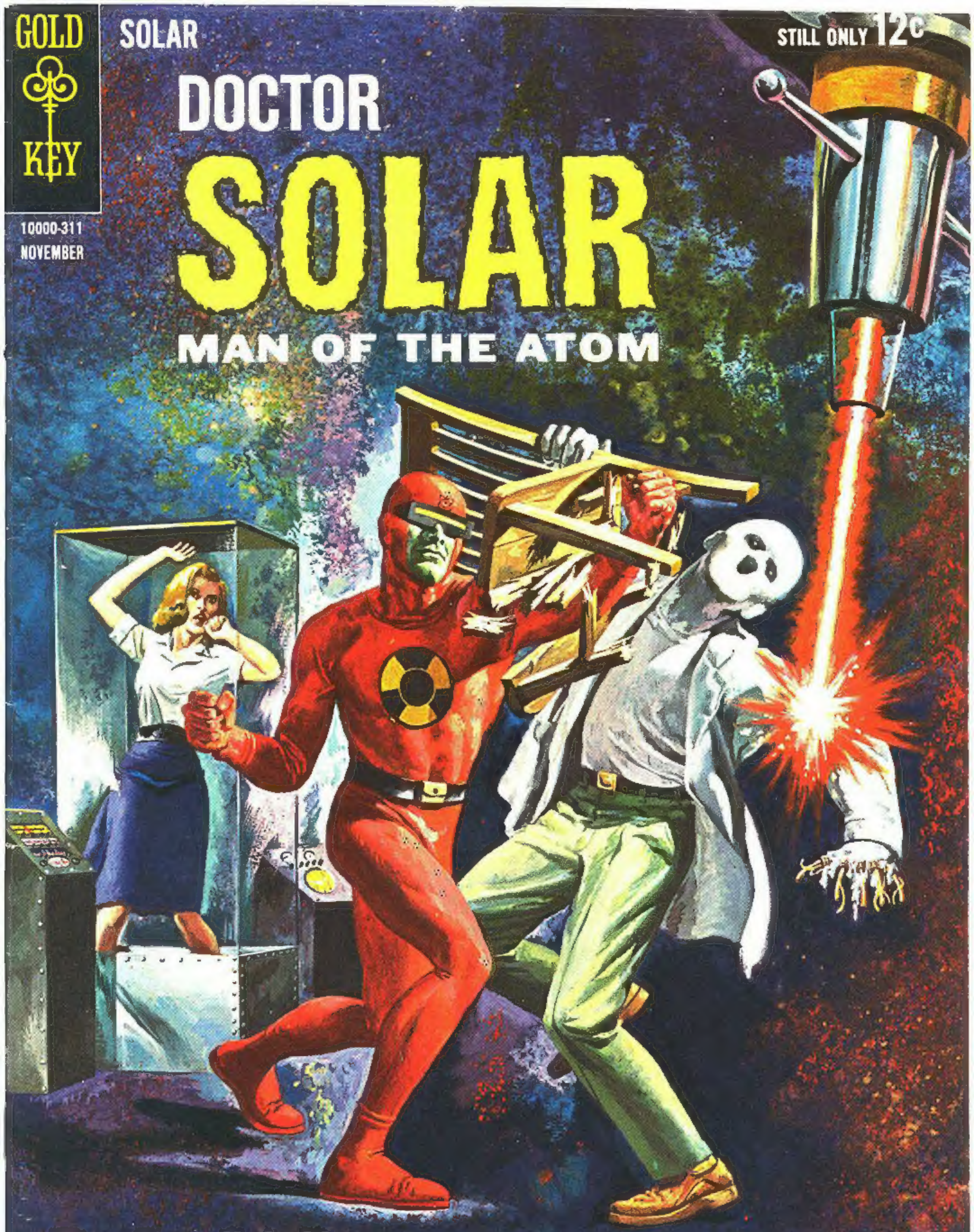
10000-311
NOVEMBER

SOLAR

DOCTOR SOLAR

MAN OF THE ATOM

STILL ONLY 12¢



The fiendish Nuro creates a humanlike robot to destroy Solar!

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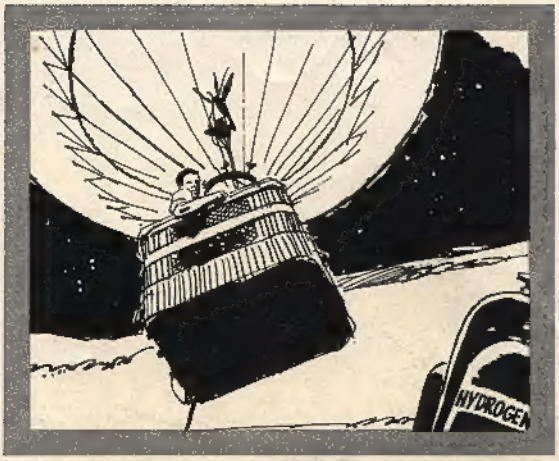
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ATOMIC ENERGY

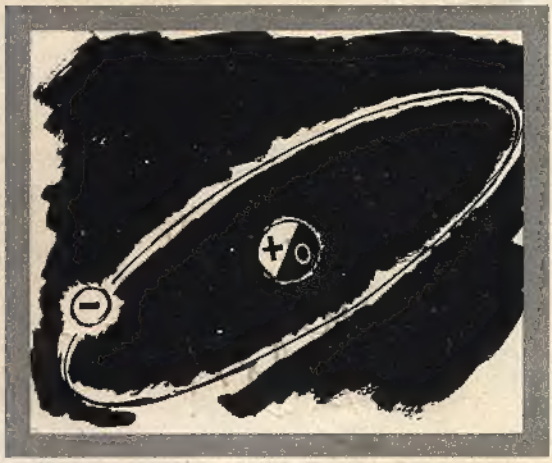
NUMBER 3

THE PARTS OF THE ATOM

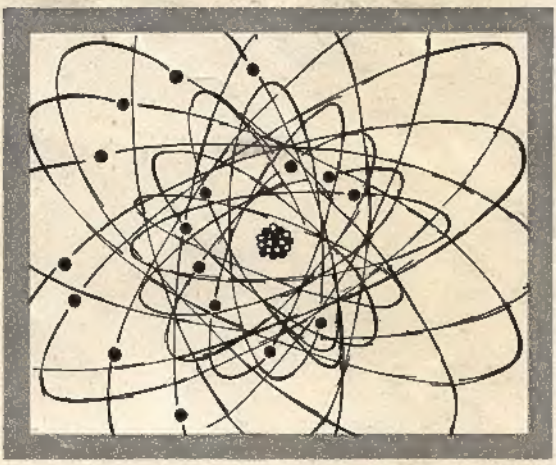
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



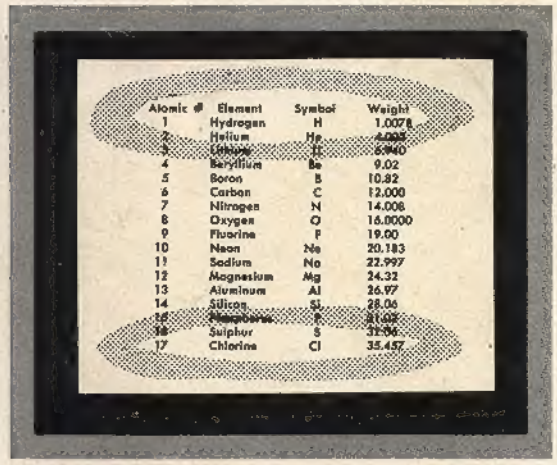
Normal hydrogen is the simplest and lightest element. A hydrogen atom is made up of a central mass or nucleus of



—a single proton, which carries a positive electric charge and a neutron with no charge at all. One electron with a

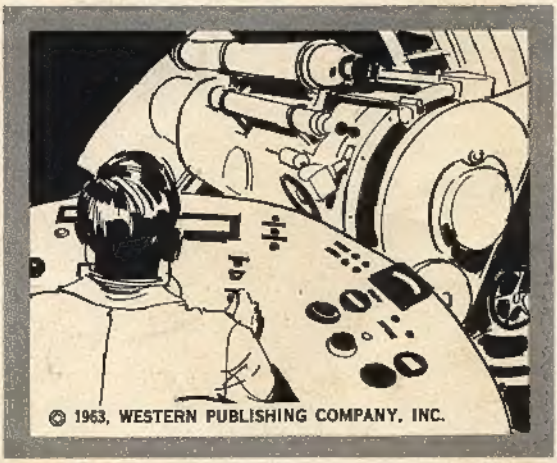


—negative charge orbits about that nucleus. The chlorine atom has an atomic weight 35 times that of the hydrogen atom.



Atomic #	Element	Symbol	Weight
1	Hydrogen	H	1.0078
2	Helium	He	4.003
3	Lithium	Li	6.940
4	Beryllium	Be	9.02
5	Boron	B	10.82
6	Carbon	C	12.000
7	Nitrogen	N	14.008
8	Oxygen	O	16.0000
9	Fluorine	F	19.00
10	Neon	Ne	20.183
11	Sodium	Na	22.997
12	Magnesium	Mg	24.32
13	Aluminum	Al	26.97
14	Silicon	Si	28.06
15	Phosphorus	P	31.027
16	Sulphur	S	31.06
17	Chlorine	Cl	35.457

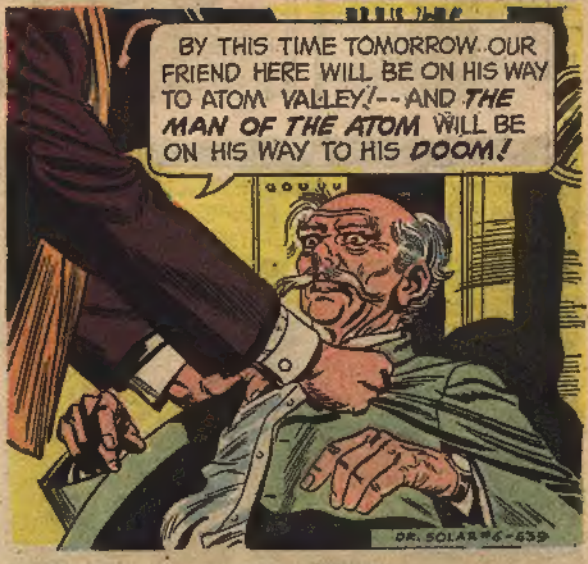
It has 17 protons and 18 neutrons, so its atomic weight is 35 and its atomic number is 17. It has 17 electrons too.



With all these parts, the atom itself is still so small that we will see it only in the scientific microscope of the future.

DOCTOR SOLAR The IMPOSTOR

SOMEWHERE IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES, THE MYSTERY MAN KNOWN AS *NURO* DESCENDS TO THE DUSKY DEPTHS OF HIS REMOTE HIDE-OUT! IT IS HERE THAT THE WORLD-FAMOUS SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR, HEINZ PARMER, HAS BEEN A PRISONER SINCE HIS MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE A YEAR AGO! IT IS HERE, UNDER NURO'S DOMINATION, THAT PARMER HAS DEVELOPED A FRIGHTENINGLY HUMAN-LIKE ANDROID! WITH HIS FIENDISH CREATION, NURO IS ABOUT TO BAIT A TRAP TO REVEAL AND ULTIMATELY DESTROY ***THE MAN OF THE ATOM!***


BY THIS TIME TOMORROW OUR FRIEND HERE WILL BE ON HIS WAY TO ATOM VALLEY!--AND *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* WILL BE ON HIS WAY TO HIS *DOOM!*
DR. SOLAR #6-639

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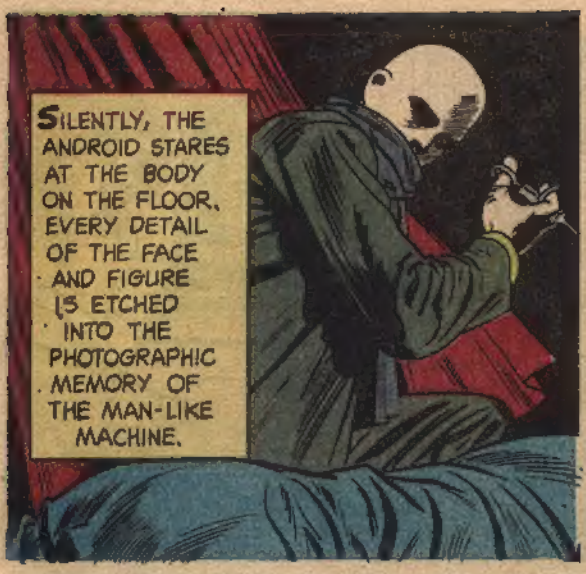
CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us five weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

FOR *YOUR* SAKE, YOUR ANDROID HAD BETTER NOT *FAIL!*
HE WON'T! HE'S BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR *ANY* EMERGENCY!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A DELEGATION OF SIX ATOM VALLEY SCIENTISTS ARRIVES AT A WASHINGTON MOTEL WHERE THEY WILL STAY DURING AN IMPORTANT NUCLEAR PHYSICS CONFERENCE...
WELCOME, DR. CLARKSON! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
OFFICE

HOURS LATER, AS DARKNESS CLOAKS THE MOTEL, A FACELESS FIGURE MOVES STEALTHILY TO ONE OF THE ROOMS...

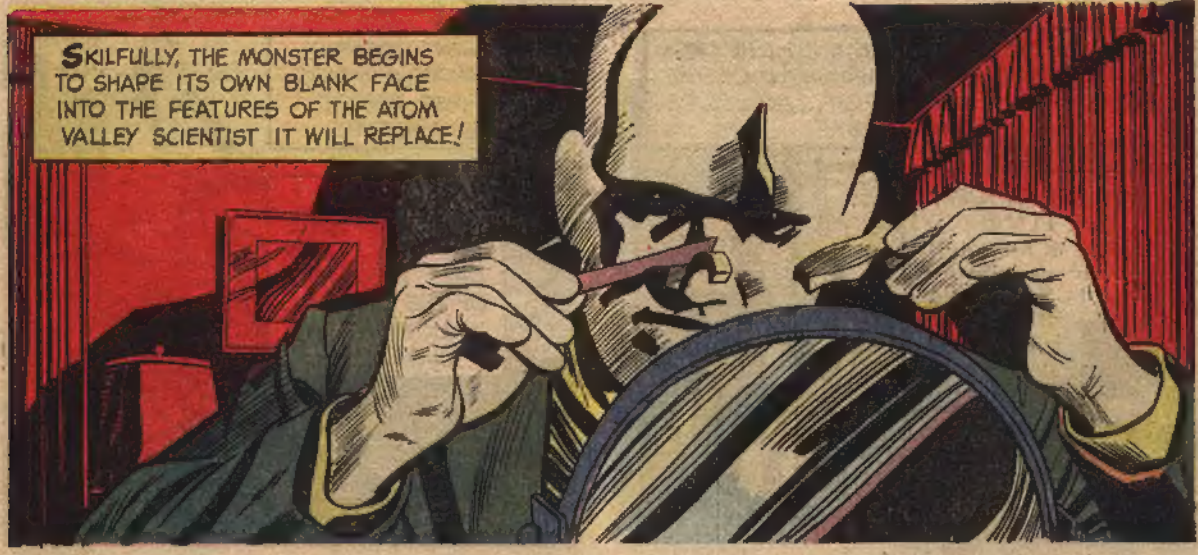
WHEN THE DELEGATES RETURN FROM AN EVENING MEETING, ONE OF THEM HAS AN UNINVITED VISITOR!--IT IS NURO'S ANDROID SEEKING AN IDENTITY AND CLAIMING ITS FIRST VICTIM!


SILENTLY, THE ANDROID STARES AT THE BODY ON THE FLOOR. EVERY DETAIL OF THE FACE AND FIGURE IS ETCHED INTO THE PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY OF THE MAN-LIKE MACHINE.

A MINUTE LATER, NURO'S FIENDISH SLAVE CAUTIOUSLY LEAVES THE ROOM WITH AN OMINOUS BUNDLE...

AN INNOCENT-LOOKING LAUNDRY TRUCK IS WAITING TO CARRY THE HELPLESS VICTIM TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION!
LAUNDRY

AS THE TRUCK RACES OFF INTO THE NIGHT, THE ANDROID RETURNS TO THE ROOM, AND BEGINS THE SECOND STEP IN NURO'S CLEVER PLAN TO UNMASK AND DESTROY DOCTOR SOLAR...


SKILFULLY, THE MONSTER BEGINS TO SHAPE ITS OWN BLANK FACE INTO THE FEATURES OF THE ATOM VALLEY SCIENTIST IT WILL REPLACE!

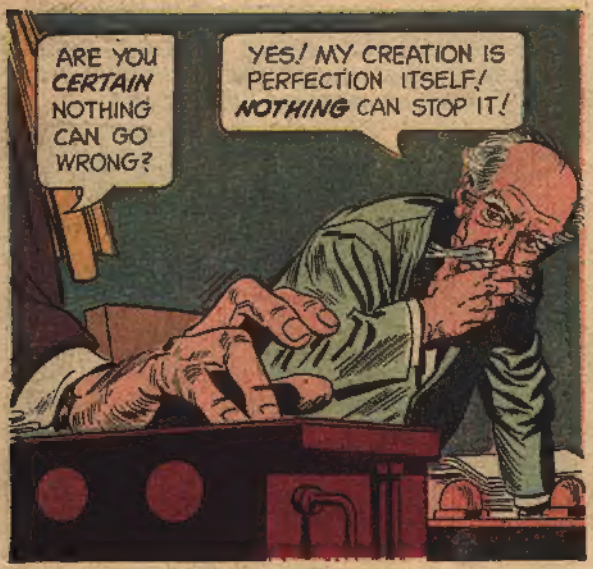
THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT THE NUCLEAR CONFERENCE, EACH ATOM VALLEY DELEGATE DELIVERS HIS REPORT ON RECENT ATOMIC ADVANCES...

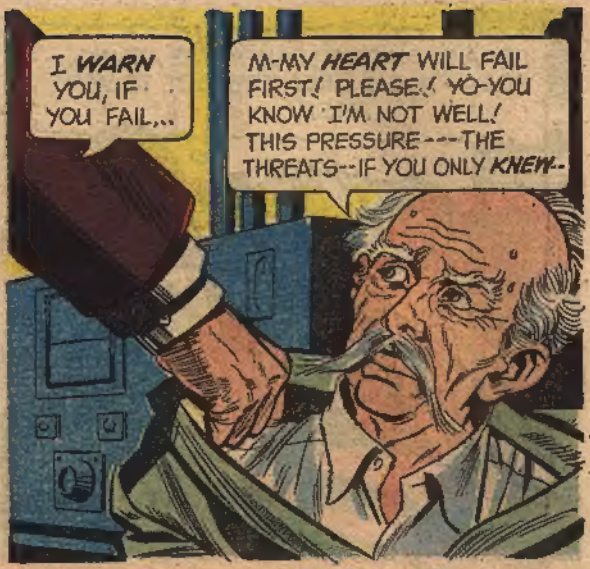
EACH TELLING OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS SPECIAL FIELD...

NOT EVEN THE MISSING DELEGATE'S ASSOCIATES CAN DETECT THAT *ONE OF THEM* IS NOT WHAT HE SEEMS, BUT A FANTASTIC LIFELESS CREATION DEDICATED TO DESTRUCTION...

AND AS THE CONFERENCE ENDS, THE CREATURE STANDS ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE THIRD STEP IN NURO'S PLOT... ACCESS TO ATOM VALLEY!
WE'D BETTER HURRY ...OUR PLANE LEAVES IN AN HOUR!

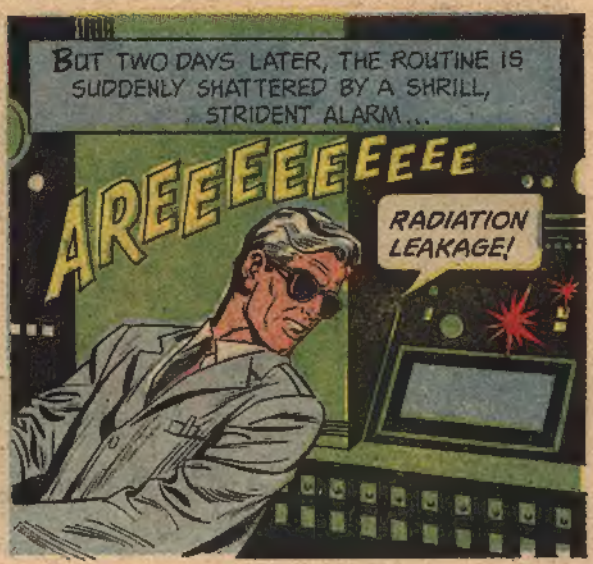
THE NEXT MORNING, THE ANDROID RADIOS THE FIRST REPORT TO HIS MASTERS...
EVERYTHING IS GOING *PERFECTLY!* IN A FEW MORE DAYS, THE MAN OF THE ATOM WILL WALK RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS!


ARE YOU CERTAIN NOTHING CAN GO WRONG?
YES! MY CREATION IS PERFECTION ITSELF! NOTHING CAN STOP IT!

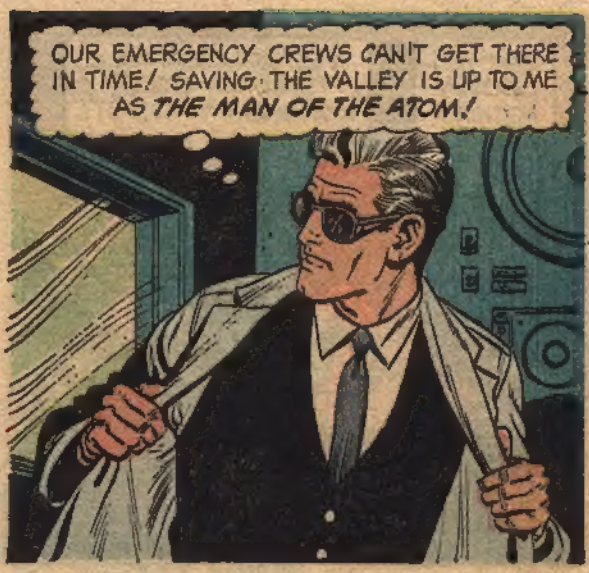

I WARN YOU, IF YOU FAIL...
M-MY HEART WILL FAIL FIRST! PLEASE! YO-YOU KNOW I'M NOT WELL! THIS PRESSURE---THE THREATS--IF YOU ONLY KNEW--

AND AT ATOM VALLEY...
HOW WAS THE CONFERENCE?
EXCELLENT, DR. SOLAR! OUR PAPERS ON ENERGY-INTO-MATTER CONVERSION WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED!

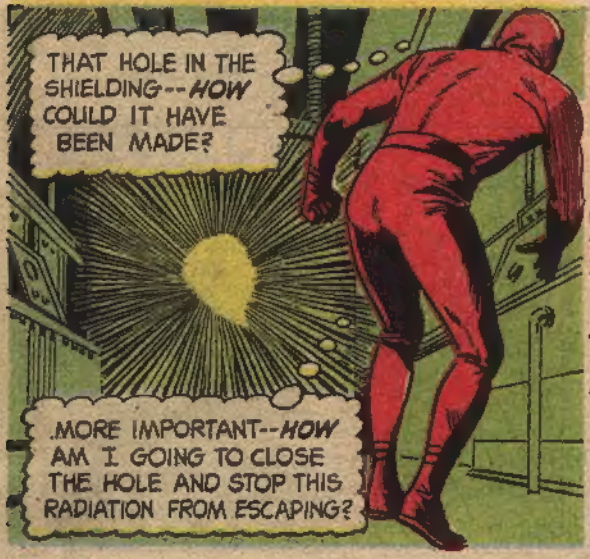
TOO BAD YOU MISSED THE TRIP! IT WAS A REFRESHING CHANGE FROM OUR ROUTINE HERE!
I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT, GAIL! BUT NOW, I GUESS, WE'RE ALL BACK TO THE OLD ROUTINE!


BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE ROUTINE IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED BY A SHRILL, STRIDENT ALARM...
AREEEEEEEEEE
RADIATION LEAKAGE!

IT'S A RADIATION LEAK IN THE ATOMIC PILE!--A BIG ONE! I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!


OUR EMERGENCY CREWS CAN'T GET THERE IN TIME! SAVING THE VALLEY IS UP TO ME AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

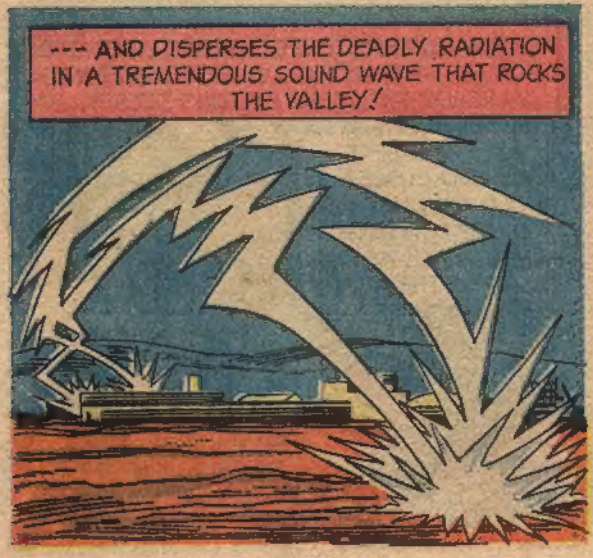
THE WAILING ALARM SENDS PEOPLE SCURRYING FOR SAFETY! BUT ONE MAN--SOLAR--RUSHES TOWARD THE DANGER!
LO-LOOK!
--THE STORIES ARE TRUE! THERE IS A MAN OF THE ATOM!


THAT HOLE IN THE SHIELDING--HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN MADE?
MORE IMPORTANT--HOW AM I GOING TO CLOSE THE HOLE AND STOP THIS RADIATION FROM ESCAPING?

MOVING QUICKLY, SOLAR'S FIRST MOVE IS TO PUSH THE CARBON CONTROL RODS DEEP INTO THE ATOMIC PILE! ONCE IN PLACE, THE RODS WILL SLOW DOWN THE REACTION AND GREATLY LESSEN THE DANGER...

SECONDS LATER, HE STANDS BEFORE THE GAPING HOLE! HIS BODY ATTRACTING THE REMAINING RADIATION LIKE A POWERFUL MAGNET!

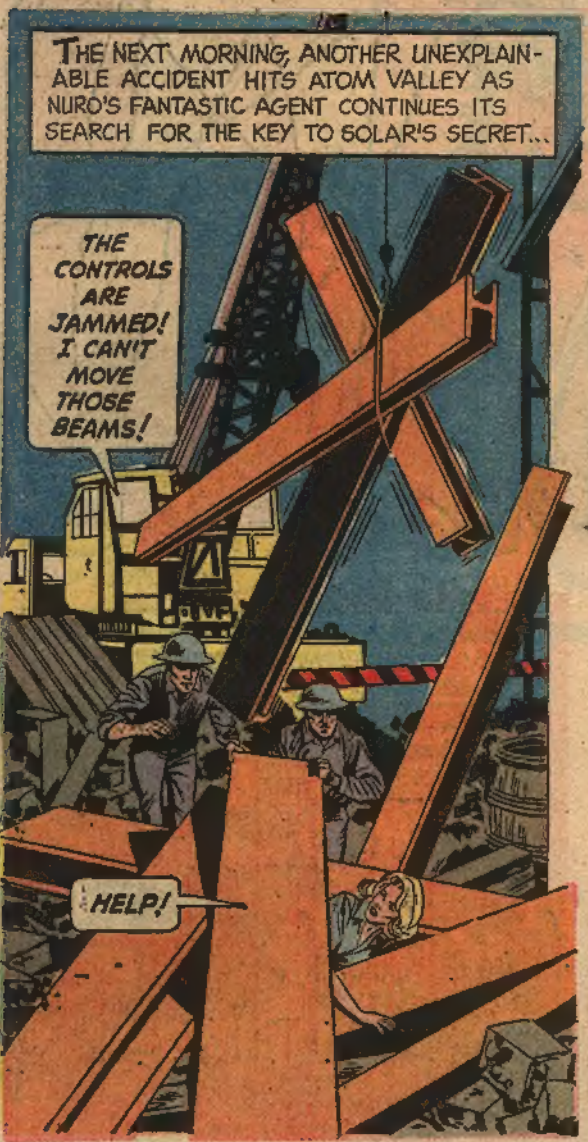
UNDER SOLAR'S INFLUENCE, THE BACKGROUND COUNT DROPS TO A SAFE LEVEL! BUT HIS *OWN* RADIOACTIVITY *INCREASES!* AGAIN CALLING ON HIS FANTASTIC POWERS, HE CONVERTS HIS BODY INTO A BURST OF ENERGY...

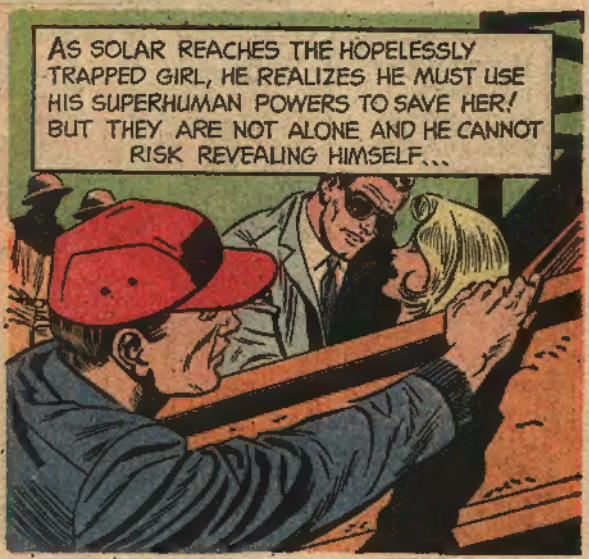

--- AND DISPERSES THE DEADLY RADIATION IN A TREMENDOUS SOUND WAVE THAT ROCKS THE VALLEY!

MINUTES LATER, EMERGENCY CREWS ARRIVE! BUT THE EMERGENCY IS PAST--- THANKS TO *THE MAN OF THE ATOM!*
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
--AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MASKED MAN WE SAW?

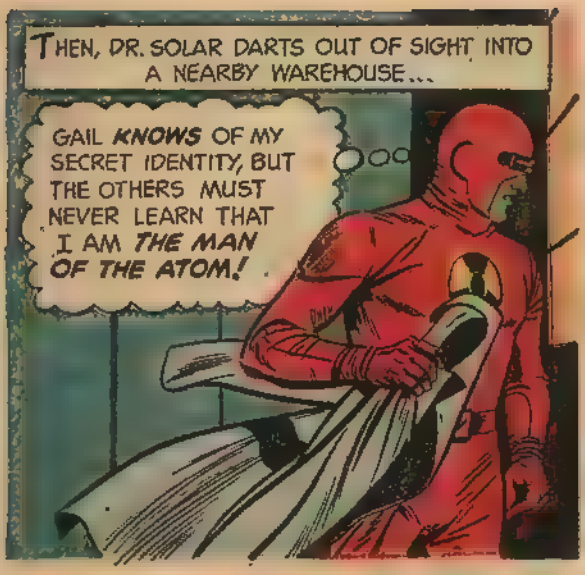
MILES AWAY, ANOTHER MAN ASKS ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT *THE MAN OF THE ATOM!*
MY PLAN IS WORKING! HIS FAST APPEARANCE *PROVES* THE MAN WE WANT IS IN ATOM VALLEY! ---BUT *WHO* IS HE?

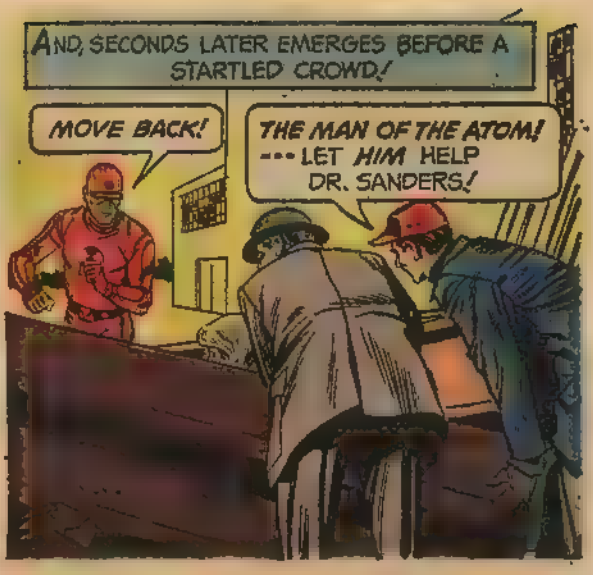
WELL, WE'LL SOON *FIND OUT!* THE *SECOND* TEST SHOULD BEGIN RIGHT AWAY!

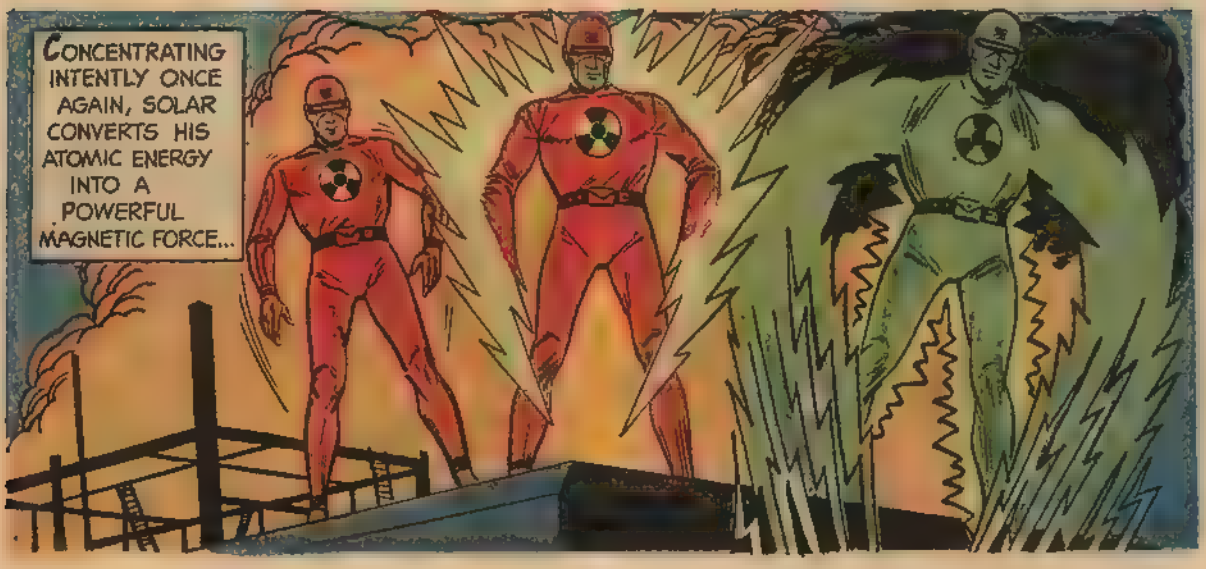

THE NEXT MORNING, ANOTHER UNEXPLAINABLE ACCIDENT HITS ATOM VALLEY AS NURO'S FANTASTIC AGENT CONTINUES ITS SEARCH FOR THE KEY TO SOLAR'S SECRET...
THE CONTROLS ARE JAMMED! I CAN'T MOVE THOSE BEAMS!
HELP!

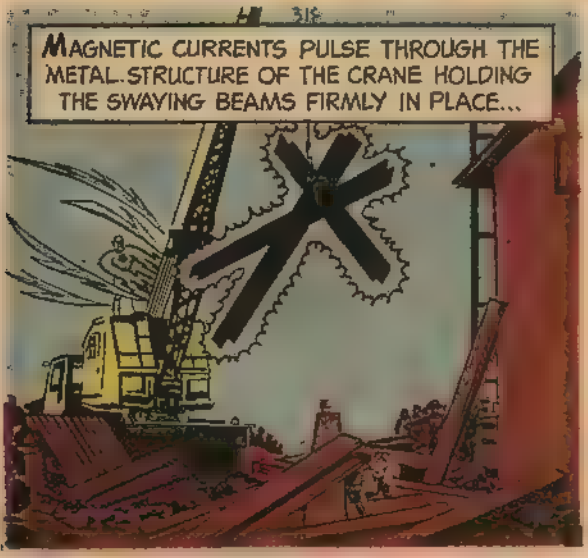

AS SOLAR REACHES THE HOPELESSLY TRAPPED GIRL, HE REALIZES HE MUST USE HIS SUPERHUMAN POWERS TO SAVE HER! BUT THEY ARE NOT ALONE AND HE CANNOT RISK REVEALING HIMSELF...

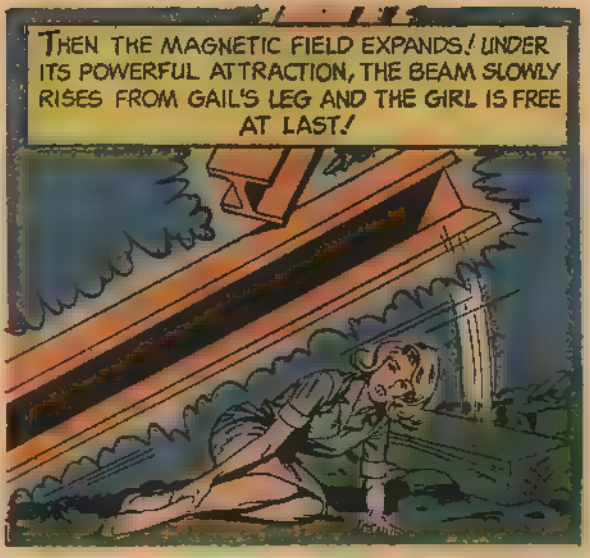
IN REASSURING TONES, HE QUIETLY OUTLINES A PLAN TO SAVE GAIL, ONE OF THE FEW WHO ALREADY KNOWS HIS AMAZING SECRET...
GAIL, THE OTHERS ARE TOO CLOSE! HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE LONGER-- I'LL BE BACK AS *THE MAN OF THE ATOM!*


THEN, DR. SOLAR DARTS OUT OF SIGHT INTO A NEARBY WAREHOUSE...
GAIL KNOWS OF MY SECRET IDENTITY, BUT THE OTHERS MUST NEVER LEARN THAT I AM THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

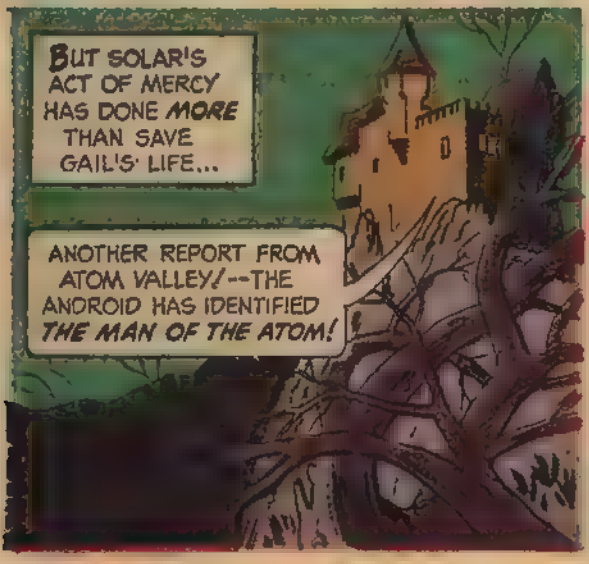

AND, SECONDS LATER EMERGES BEFORE A STARTLED CROWD!
MOVE BACK!
THE MAN OF THE ATOM! --- LET HIM HELP DR. SANDERS!

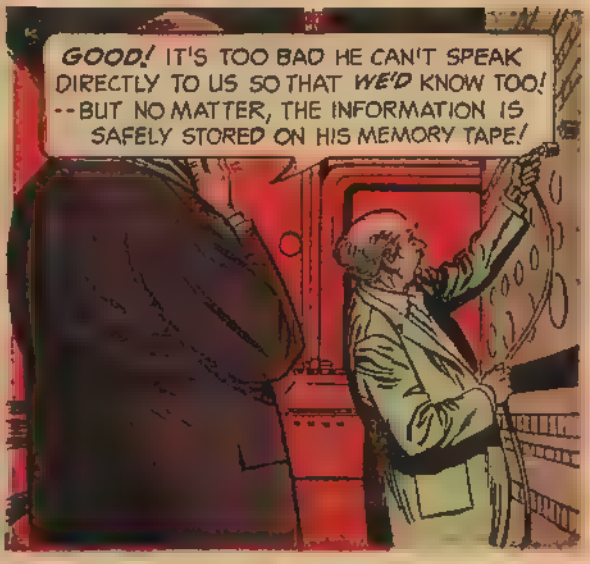

CONCENTRATING INTENTLY ONCE AGAIN, SOLAR CONVERTS HIS ATOMIC ENERGY INTO A POWERFUL MAGNETIC FORCE...


MAGNETIC CURRENTS PULSE THROUGH THE METAL STRUCTURE OF THE CRANE HOLDING THE SWAYING BEAMS FIRMLY IN PLACE...

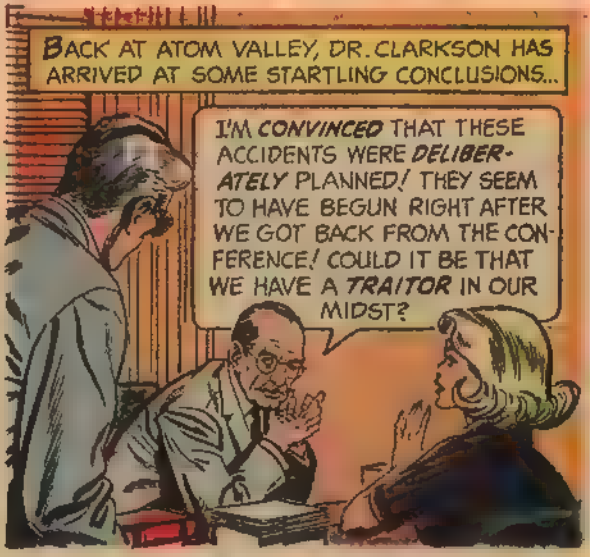

THEN THE MAGNETIC FIELD EXPANDS! UNDER ITS POWERFUL ATTRACTION, THE BEAM SLOWLY RISES FROM GAIL'S LEG AND THE GIRL IS FREE AT LAST!

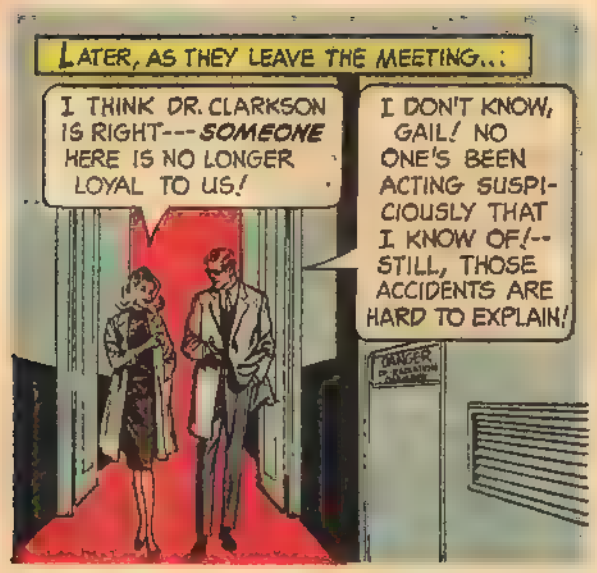
THEN, THE MAGNETIC FIELD IS CONVERTED INTO STILL ANOTHER ENERGY FORM--- *LIGHT!* AND WITH A BLINDING FLASH, *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* VANISHES!

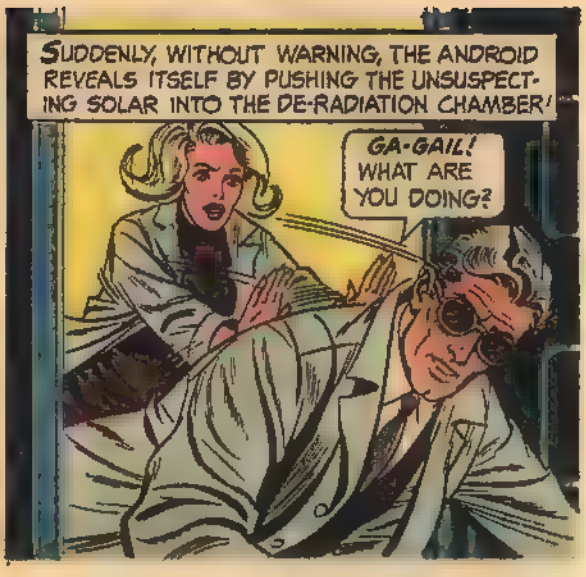

BUT SOLAR'S ACT OF MERCY HAS DONE *MORE* THAN SAVE GAIL'S LIFE...
ANOTHER REPORT FROM ATOM VALLEY!--THE ANDROID HAS IDENTIFIED *THE MAN OF THE ATOM!*

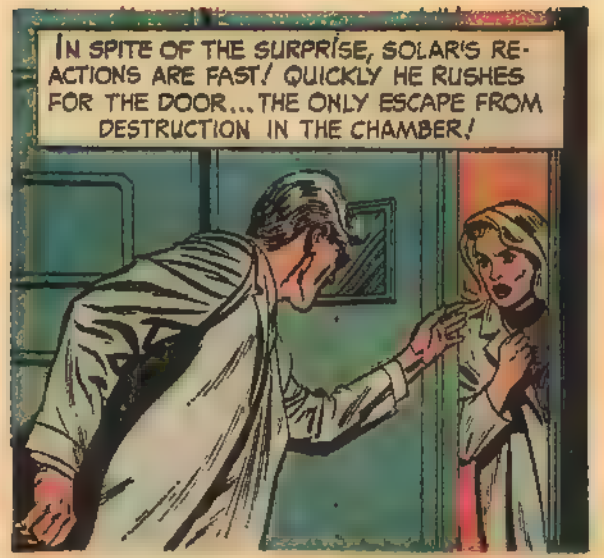

GOOD! IT'S TOO BAD HE CAN'T SPEAK DIRECTLY TO US SO THAT *WE'D* KNOW TOO! --BUT NO MATTER, THE INFORMATION IS SAFELY STORED ON HIS MEMORY TAPE!

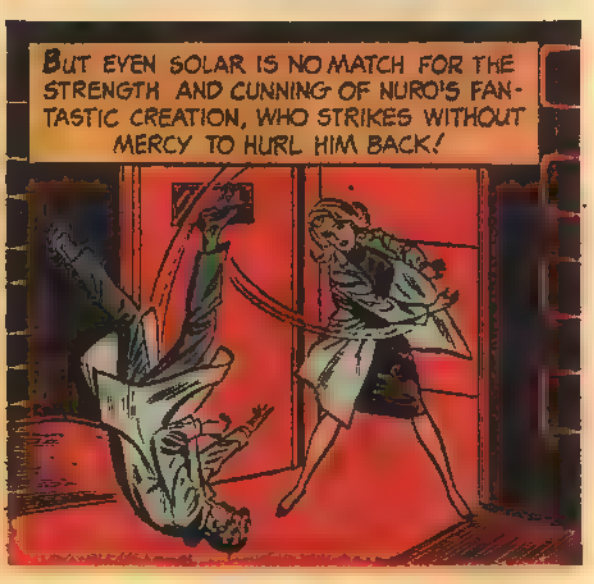
---OUR NEXT STEP IS TO MAKE A PRISONER OF THIS *MAN OF THE ATOM!* WILL YOUR VAPORIZER BEAM BE READY BEFORE WE GET HIM HERE?

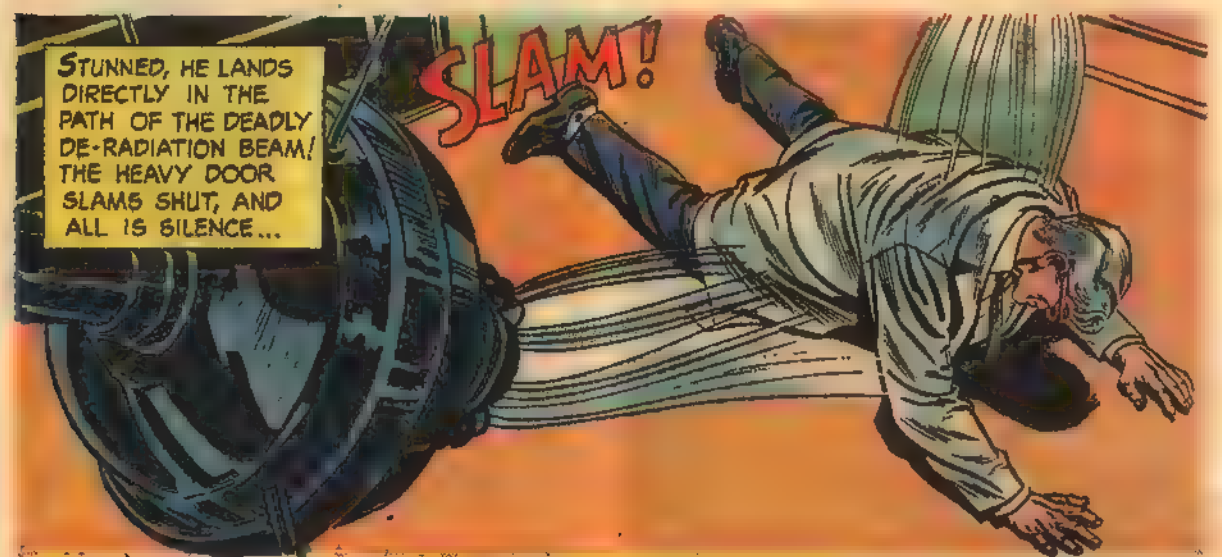

BACK AT ATOM VALLEY, DR. CLARKSON HAS ARRIVED AT SOME STARTLING CONCLUSIONS...
I'M *CONVINCED* THAT THESE ACCIDENTS WERE *DELIBERATELY* PLANNED! THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEGUN RIGHT AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM THE CONFERENCE! COULD IT BE THAT WE HAVE A *TRAITOR* IN OUR MIDST?

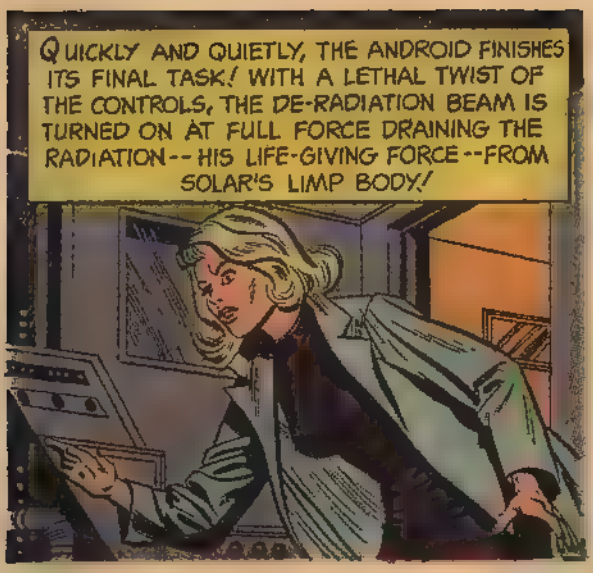

LATER, AS THEY LEAVE THE MEETING...:
I THINK DR. CLARKSON IS RIGHT---SOMEONE HERE IS NO LONGER LOYAL TO US!
I DON'T KNOW, GAIL! NO ONE'S BEEN ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY THAT I KNOW OF!--STILL, THOSE ACCIDENTS ARE HARD TO EXPLAIN!
DANGER DE-RADIATION CHAMBER


SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE ANDROID REVEALS ITSELF BY PUSHING THE UNSUSPECTING SOLAR INTO THE DE-RADIATION CHAMBER!
GA-GAIL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


IN SPITE OF THE SURPRISE, SOLAR'S REACTIONS ARE FAST! QUICKLY HE RUSHES FOR THE DOOR...THE ONLY ESCAPE FROM DESTRUCTION IN THE CHAMBER!

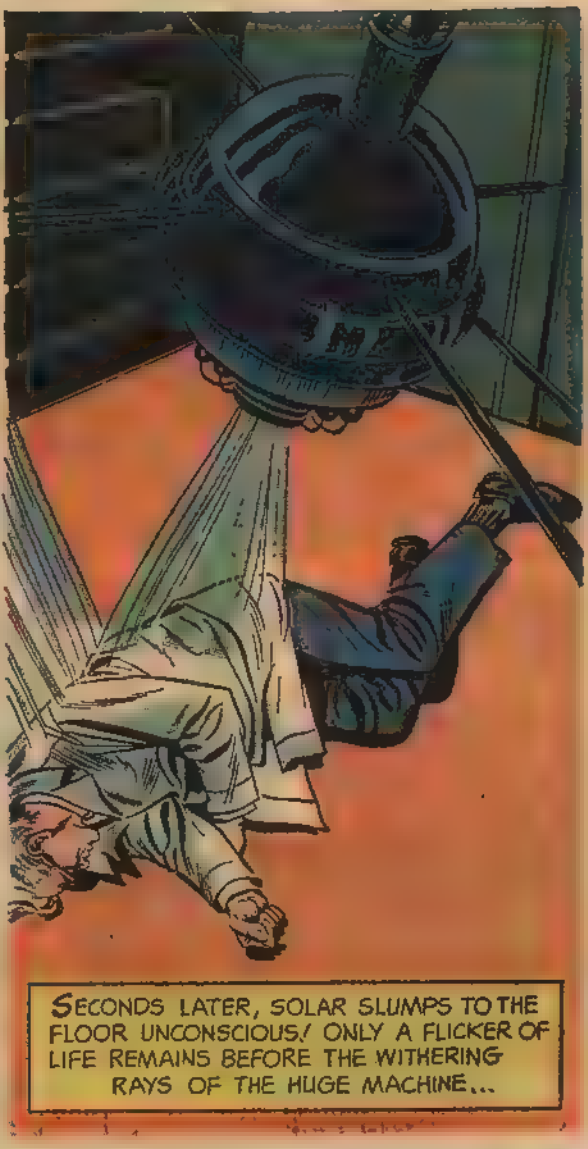

BUT EVEN SOLAR IS NO MATCH FOR THE STRENGTH AND CUNNING OF NURO'S FANTASTIC CREATION, WHO STRIKES WITHOUT MERCY TO HURL HIM BACK!

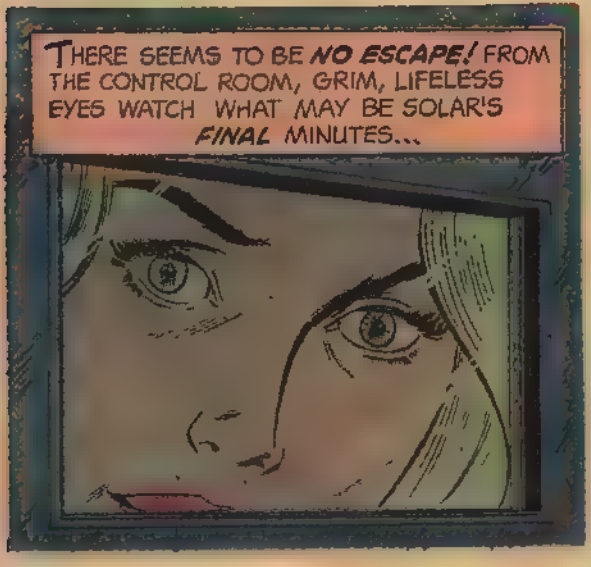

STUNNED, HE LANDS DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE DEADLY DE-RADIATION BEAM! THE HEAVY DOOR SLAMS SHUT, AND ALL IS SILENCE...
SLAM!


QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, THE ANDROID FINISHES ITS FINAL TASK! WITH A LETHAL TWIST OF THE CONTROLS, THE DE-RADIATION BEAM IS TURNED ON AT FULL FORCE DRAINING THE RADIATION -- HIS LIFE-GIVING FORCE -- FROM SOLAR'S LIMP BODY!

BZZATT!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED! WHY WOULD GAIL TRY TO DESTROY ME?

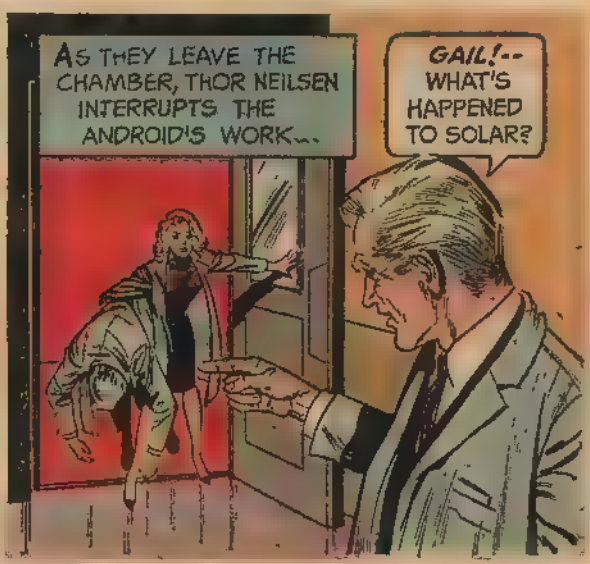
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT BEAM KILLS ME!


SECONDS LATER, SOLAR SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS! ONLY A FLICKER OF LIFE REMAINS BEFORE THE WITHERING RAYS OF THE HUGE MACHINE...

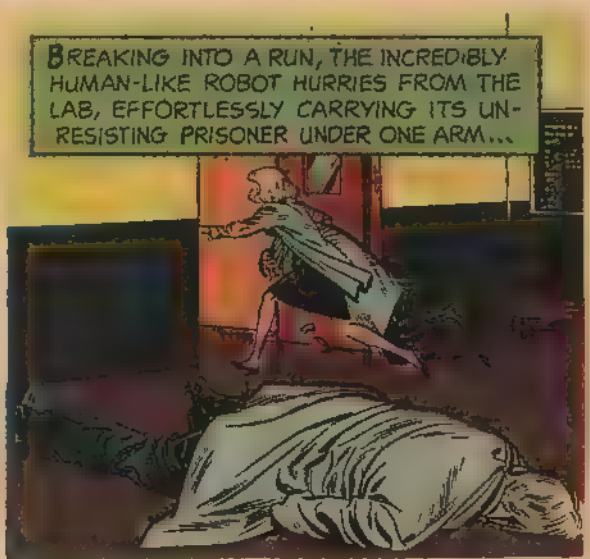

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ESCAPE! FROM THE CONTROL ROOM, GRIM, LIFELESS EYES WATCH WHAT MAY BE SOLAR'S FINAL MINUTES...

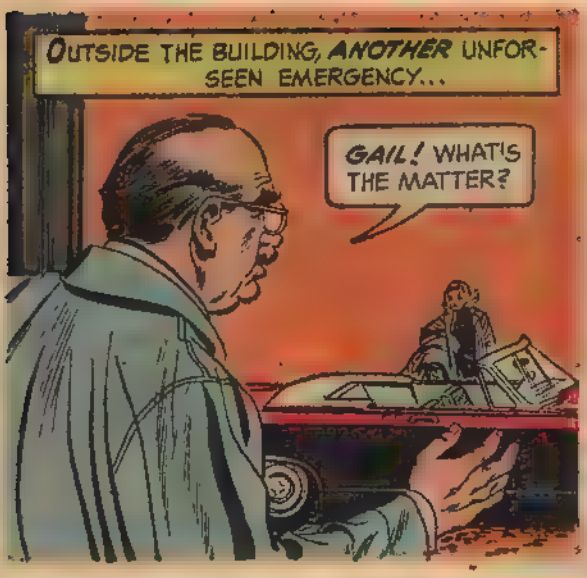
BUT BEFORE THE MACHINE CAN FINISH ITS TERRIBLE JOB, THE BEAM IS CUT OFF! SLOWLY THE CHAMBER DOOR BEGINS TO OPEN...

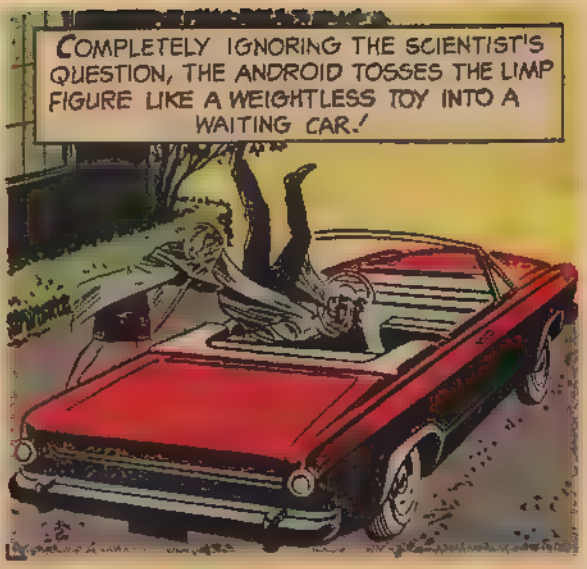
... AND THE IMPOSTOR ENTERS TO REMOVE THE NEARLY-LIFELESS FORM!

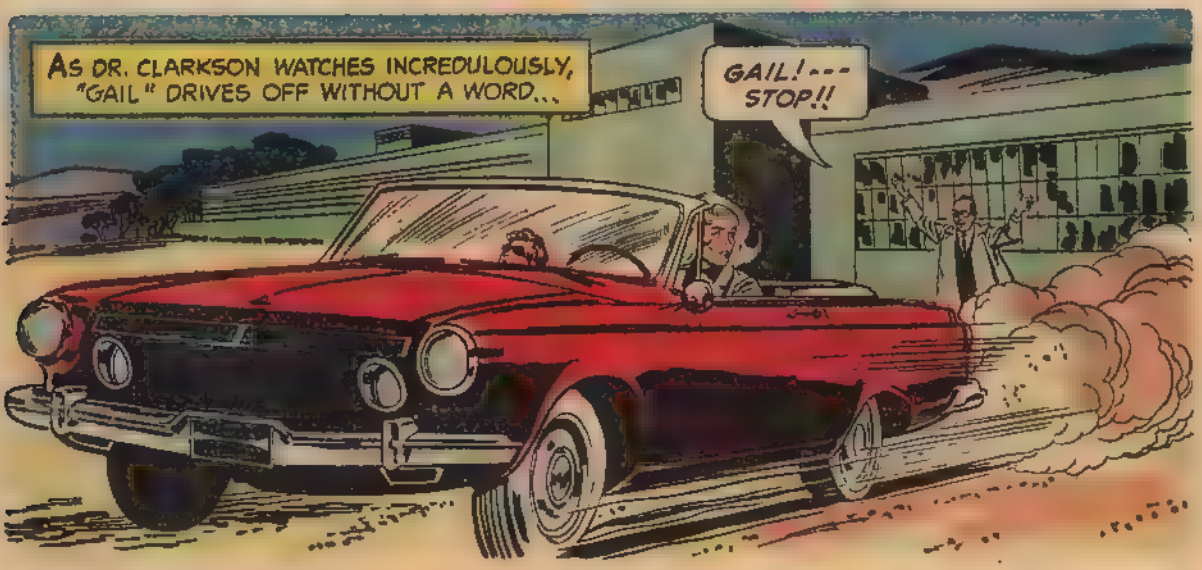

AS THEY LEAVE THE CHAMBER, THOR NEILSEN INTERRUPTS THE ANDROID'S WORK...
GAIL!-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SOLAR?

UNPREPARED TO HANDLE ANY EXPLANATIONS, THE MONSTER'S MECHANICAL MIND REACTS WITH *VIOLENCE*...

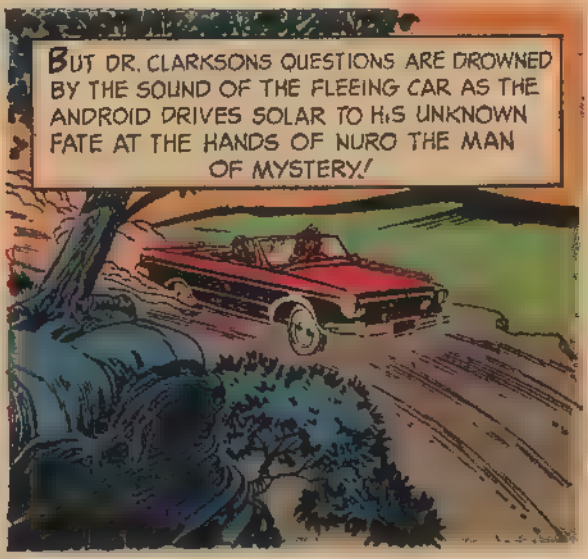

BREAKING INTO A RUN, THE INCREDIBLY HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT HURRIES FROM THE LAB, EFFORTLESSLY CARRYING ITS UNRESISTING PRISONER UNDER ONE ARM...


OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, ANOTHER UNFORSEEN EMERGENCY...
GAIL! WHAT'S THE MATTER?


COMPLETELY IGNORING THE SCIENTIST'S QUESTION, THE ANDROID TOSSES THE LIMP FIGURE LIKE A WEIGHTLESS TOY INTO A WAITING CAR!


AS DR. CLARKSON WATCHES INCREDULOUSLY, "GAIL" DRIVES OFF WITHOUT A WORD...
GAIL!--- STOP!!

GAIL! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? -- WHERE?


BUT DR. CLARKSONS QUESTIONS ARE DROWNED BY THE SOUND OF THE FLEEING CAR AS THE ANDROID DRIVES SOLAR TO HIS UNKNOWN FATE AT THE HANDS OF NURO THE MAN OF MYSTERY!

SOLAR'S SCIENCE FORUM

In issue #2 of DOCTOR SOLAR, you show DOCTOR SOLAR taking off his glasses and shooting lightning-like rays at Gail's gun. In issue #4, only for a few panels, you show him with his glasses off and no rays. How did he do that?

Also, why isn't his skin green when Gail and other people look at him? About how long could I stay with DOCTOR SOLAR before I'd die.

JOSEPH LEYDON
927 PIETY STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

When Solar removes his glasses, he releases an intense stream of deadly gamma rays. He can control them to some extent through concentration, but cannot prevent them. This is why he usually wears dark glasses, which are made of a dense material that stops the radiation.

The length of time you could be exposed to Solar's radiation depends on many factors including the intensity of his radioactivity at the moment. Under the most perfect conditions, you'd probably not last more than five minutes.

I like to read your Comics. One of the best was THE DEADLY SEA. In that Comic, what killed the fish? I like to pin up your picture on my wall. I look at all your Comics. How do you turn green?

ROBERT LEE MASTIN, JR.
2626 N. ALABAMA
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

The fish were killed by radiation that had escaped from nuclear waste buried at sea. The danger of such accidents has been lessened by an AEC directive forbidding disposal of atomic waste in the ocean.

Solar's skin turns green when his body is undergoing a physical change or when his radioactivity reaches a high level.

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I wish to know how and why DOCTOR SOLAR became what he is. Also I wish to know why he keeps on living only on atomic energy.

STEPHEN MITCHELL
92 MORGAN STREET
ILION, N. Y.

Solar's new life began when the reactor at Atom Valley was sabotaged. Trying to save a fellow scientist from death, Solar was himself transmuted into a living atomic isotope. Because the radioactive elements in his body have a short half-life, he must replace lost energy through exposure to fresh radioactivity. It's a process very much like recharging a weakened battery.

DOCTOR SOLAR is one of my top ten favorites. The first story in the last issue was only fair, but the second story — What a great! My only objection was that DS couldn't think his way out. Does he always have to rely on luck and his fellow workers? This weakens the realism and tears down his character. Next time he's in a trap, let him think his way out!

PAUL GAMBACCINI
8 ELIZABETH DRIVE
WESTPORT, CONN.

There'll be no one around to help SOLAR in his fight with Nuro's android!

I haven't missed any of the DOCTOR SOLAR features so far and hope that I don't. I have a number of GOLD KEY Comics and like every one of them. I like all the characters you have in DOCTOR SOLAR and the art is just great. All of your stories have been very interesting and I read them over and over. I hope the next 50 are just as good as the first 4.

MIKE EDGERTON
LUCASVILLE, OHIO

Why don't you finally let Gail in on the great secret of DOCTOR SOLAR? If he likes her, he better put on some more of his cadmium clothing and take her out to a movie.

I really am too old for Comics, but as long as you publish DOCTOR SOLAR, I will sneak them in!

BOB LUEBKE
RICHMOND, VA.

You must have missed the last issue, Bob! Gail's way ahead of you! You're never too old for comics — especially DOCTOR SOLAR.

I am studying Gamma Rays and Atomic Energy in some of my books. What are DOCTOR SOLAR's five most common powers?

STUART BOPP
200 N. TRENTON AVE.
PITTSBURGH 21, PA.

Solar really has only one power: The ability to convert the matter in his body into forms of energy. Of course, energy can take many forms ranging from light to the power of a windstorm. As need arises, he is constantly discovering new ways to use his power.

I am a rabid lover of Comics and there is barely one I haven't read. Every once in a while, the Comic companies come up with a hero really worth writing about.

DOCTOR SOLAR is one of the best characters to come along in a long time. One, he is original. Two, he is more plausible and his origin is possible. Unlike other characters, he and his origin are entirely possible. Three, his powers are more unusual and generally better than most. These are also likely. Four, your slow development of him allows the character to assume personality and depth. For instance, you bring out the curse of isolation his powers bring him. Five, the artwork is excellent. Six, your supporting character (PROFESSOR HARBINGER) is excellent.

I could go on and on with compliments! So far the emergencies haven't taxed Solar's powers. Let's see more tough problems like in Issue #4. With his powers, interplanetary (and interstellar) flight is possible. This would open whole new vistas.

ARNOLD GLASS
108-18 63 DRIVE
FOREST HILLS, N. Y.

In the story where Dr. Thor (Neilsen) makes a machine that takes radiation from man when fallout happens: How can DOCTOR SOLAR change his human form when he gets trapped in the room where the machine is?

STEVEN SCHMIDT
ORION, ILL.

Solar was able to change his human form by acting quickly before the machine had a chance to drain his energy completely.

Your fourth issue of DOCTOR SOLAR was great, as your Comics always are. The first story had a good idea. The best scenes, in my opinion, were when Solar drew all the sea's radiation to him.

The PROFESSOR HARBINGER story was good, but I didn't like the ending.

The cover story was the best one in the issue. It left me hanging, which I like.

One afterthought, though: What is DOCTOR SOLAR's first name?

GREG KISHEL
311-8½ ST. S.
VIRGINIA, MINN.

Solar's first name is part of his secret!

Is it possible for Solar to draw in the energy a Hydrogen Bomb or an Atomic Bomb?

CHRIS ALEXANDER
26089 LEHIGH
INKSTER, MICH.

Yes! He did this in issue #2 when he was trapped in the danger area during an A-bomb test.

When you caused the giant whirlpool, in the Comic it said it bored in the ocean mud. I thought the ocean floor was of rocks and sand.

CHARLES P. L. CURRY
241 CONLEE PLACE
MEMPHIS 11, TENN.

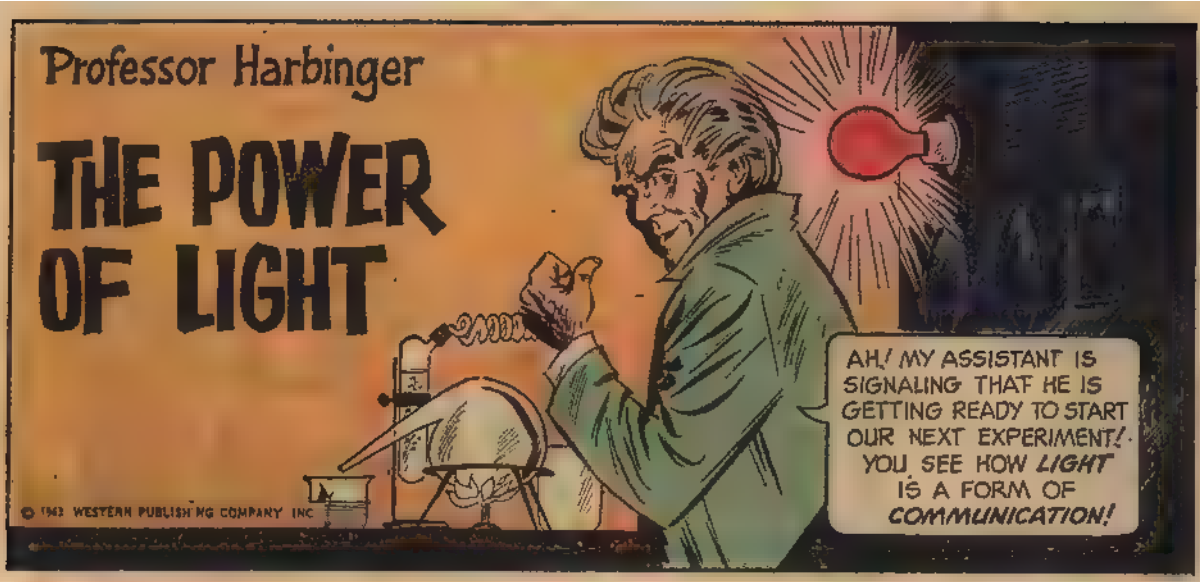
It probably is. But the ocean itself is water. Add water to sand and what do you get?

Although it isn't possible to answer each and every letter, your ideas and suggestions are important. Address your mail to:

DOCTOR SOLAR
K. K. Publications, Inc.
Poughkeepsie, New York

Professor Harbinger

THE POWER OF LIGHT


AH! MY ASSISTANT IS SIGNALING THAT HE IS GETTING READY TO START OUR NEXT EXPERIMENT! YOU SEE HOW *LIGHT* IS A FORM OF *COMMUNICATION!*

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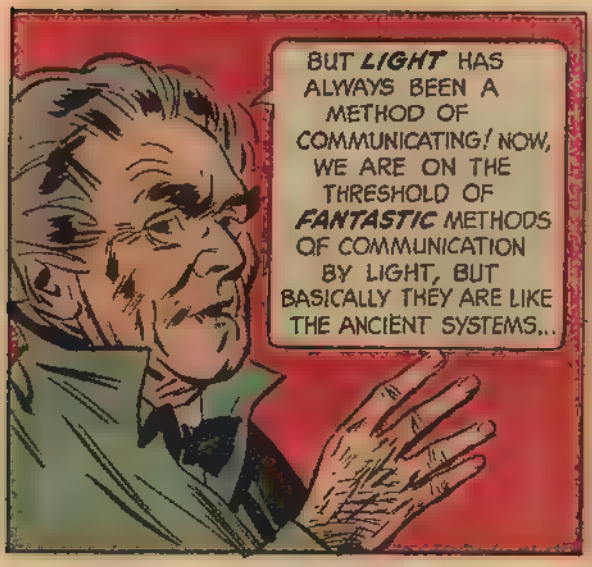
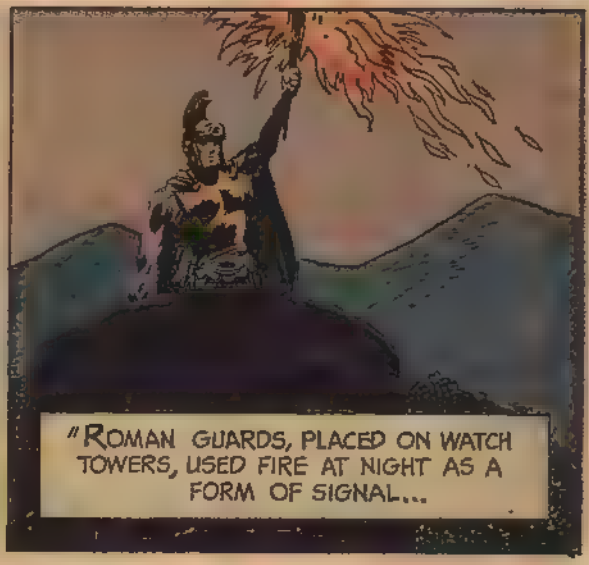
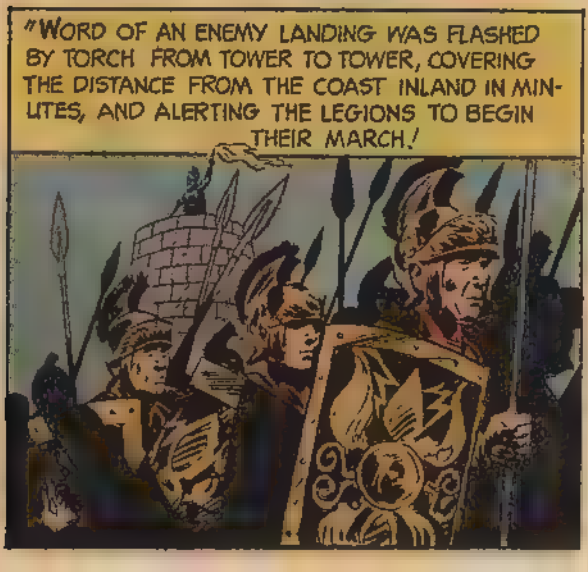
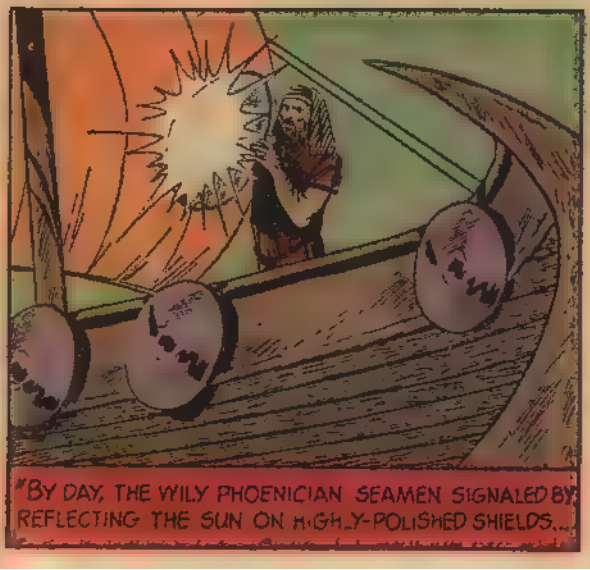
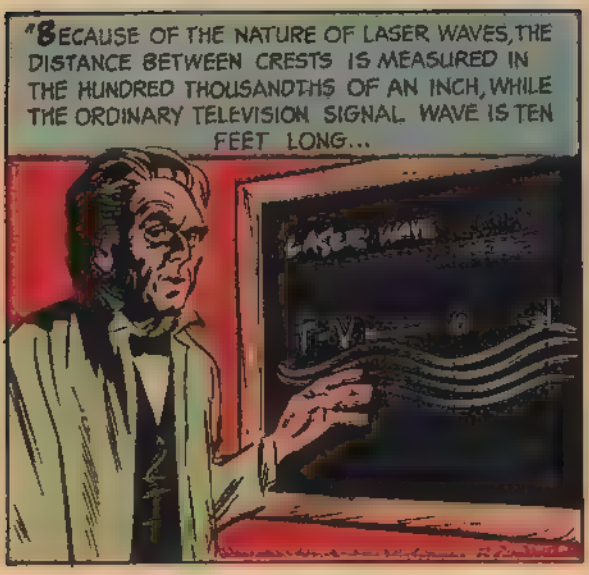

BUT *LIGHT* HAS ALWAYS BEEN A METHOD OF COMMUNICATING! NOW, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF *FANTASTIC* METHODS OF COMMUNICATION BY LIGHT, BUT BASICALLY THEY ARE LIKE THE ANCIENT SYSTEMS...

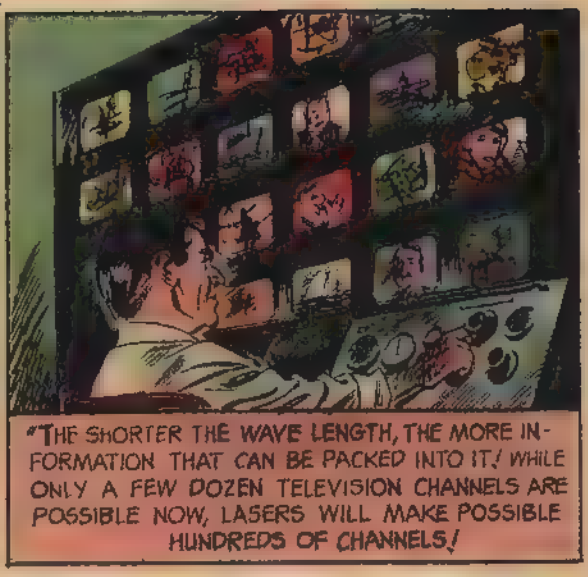


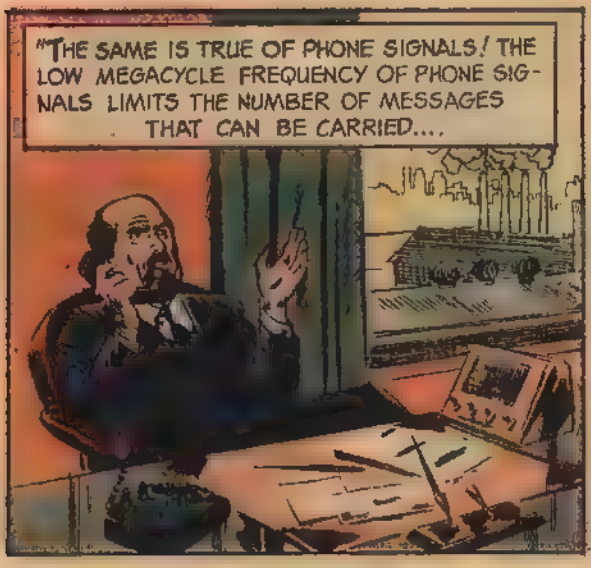

"WORD OF AN ENEMY LANDING WAS FLASHED BY TORCH FROM TOWER TO TOWER, COVERING THE DISTANCE FROM THE COAST INLAND IN MINUTES, AND ALERTING THE LEGIONS TO BEGIN THEIR MARCH!



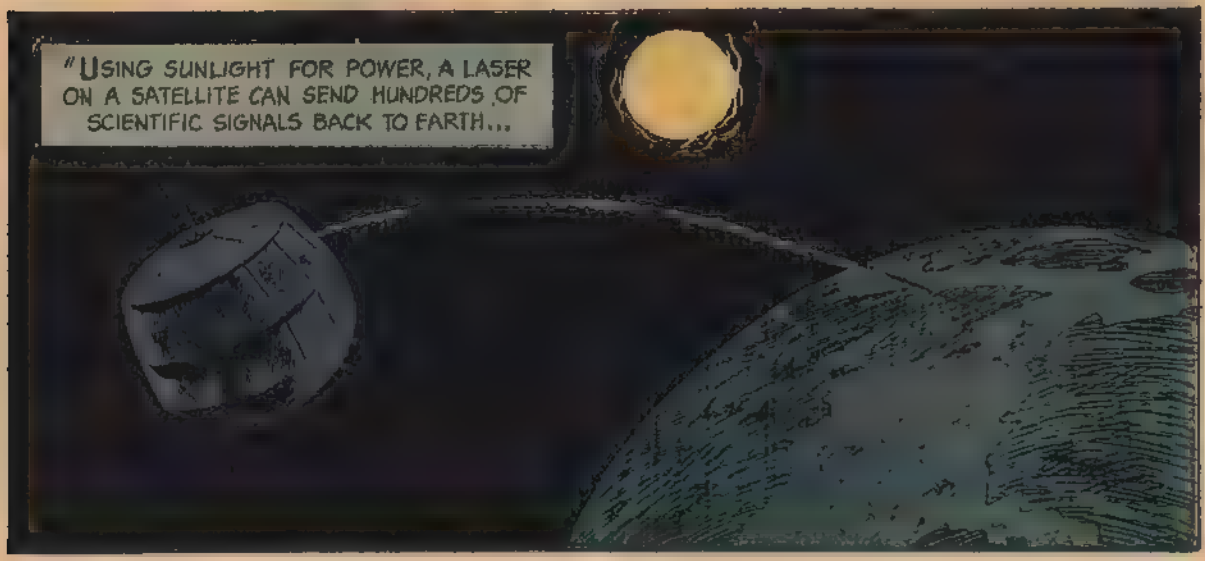
"BY THOSE SIGNALS THAT USED SUNLIGHT, THE PHOENICIAN FLEET COULD FORM TO ATTACK AN ENEMY!
"AS THE WEST WAS WON, LIGHT WAS USED TO COMMUNICATE BETWEEN INDIAN-ATTACKED POSTS AND ARMY TROOPS OUT IN THE FIELD...
"AT NIGHT, MODERN WARFARE STILL DEPENDS ON LIGHT SIGNALS, AS COLORED FLARES TELL WHERE AND WHEN TO ATTACK!
"TODAY, WE HAVE FOUND A NEW WAY TO HARNESS LIGHT FOR SIGNALING! A DEVICE CALLED A LASER PRODUCES COHERENT LIGHT-- LIGHT WAVES THAT TRAVEL ONE BEHIND THE OTHER, AS IF IN MARCHING STEP...
'THE LASER LIGHT BEAM IS CONCENTRATED AND POWERFUL, FOR INSTEAD OF SCATTERING AND SPREADING, AS MOST LIGHT DOES THE FURTHER IT IS FROM ITS SOURCE, LASER LIGHT MAINTAINS ITS TIGHT FOCUS AND CAN EVEN BURN THROUGH STEEL!


"BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF LASER WAVES, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN CRESTS IS MEASURED IN THE HUNDRED THOUSANDTHS OF AN INCH, WHILE THE ORDINARY TELEVISION SIGNAL WAVE IS TEN FEET LONG...
LASER WAVE
T.V.


"THE SHORTER THE WAVE LENGTH, THE MORE INFORMATION THAT CAN BE PACKED INTO IT! WHILE ONLY A FEW DOZEN TELEVISION CHANNELS ARE POSSIBLE NOW, LASERS WILL MAKE POSSIBLE HUNDREDS OF CHANNELS!


"THE SAME IS TRUE OF PHONE SIGNALS! THE LOW MEGACYCLE FREQUENCY OF PHONE SIGNALS LIMITS THE NUMBER OF MESSAGES THAT CAN BE CARRIED....

"BUT A MILLION PHONE MESSAGES CAN BE PUT INTO ONE LASER BEAM!


"USING SUNLIGHT FOR POWER, A LASER ON A SATELLITE CAN SEND HUNDREDS OF SCIENTIFIC SIGNALS BACK TO FARTH...

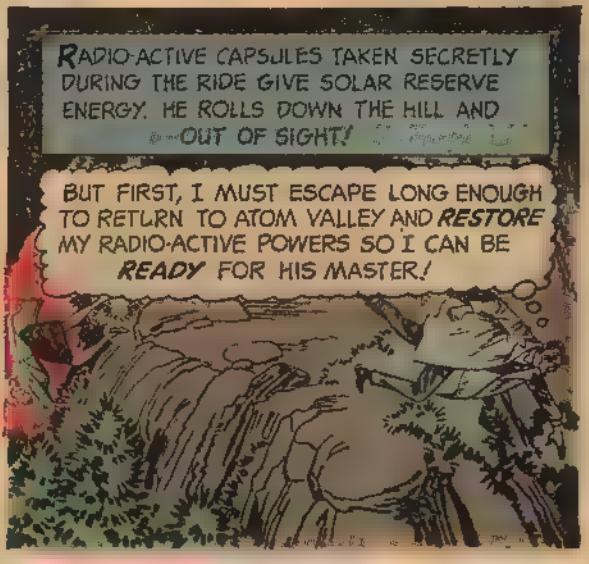
FROM SATELLITE TO SATELLITE, LASER SIGNALS CAN FLASH...
"SO CLOSELY FOCUSED ARE LASER BEAMS, THAT WE CAN TURN ONE ON THE MOON OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION MILES AWAY AND EVEN CREATE A SPOT OF LIGHT THERE!"
YES, THE USE OF *LIGHT* AS A FUTURE MEANS OF *COMMUNICATION* OPENS LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES, THANKS TO THE LASER!
AND CREATING LIGHT OFFERS *NO PROBLEM* FOR MAN---
ER-NO PROBLEM AT ALL!
SORRY, PROFESSOR HARBINGER--THERE SEEMS TO BE A SHORT CIRCUIT! ---WE'LL HAVE THE LIGHTS BACK ON IN A MINUTE!

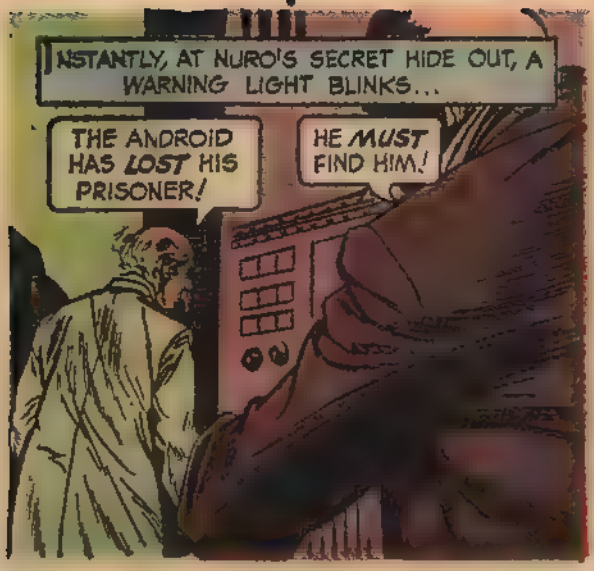
DOCTOR SOLAR

ANDROID AGAINST THE ATOM

BEFORE ANYONE CAN SPREAD AN ALARM, THE RUTHLESS ANDROID SPEEDS AWAY FROM THE ATOM. VALLEY WITH A HELPLESS PRISONER LYING MOTIONLESS IN THE CAR! THEIR DESTINATION?--NURO'S SECRET BASE OF OPERATION! THEIR DESTINY?--THE REVELATION AND DESTRUCTION OF ***THE MAN OF THE ATOM!***

WHEN SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, SOLAR ACTS! BEFORE THE SURPRISED ANDROID CAN STOP HIM, HE BREAKS FREE!
I WANT IT TO TAKE ME TO *GAIL* AND ITS *MASTER*...

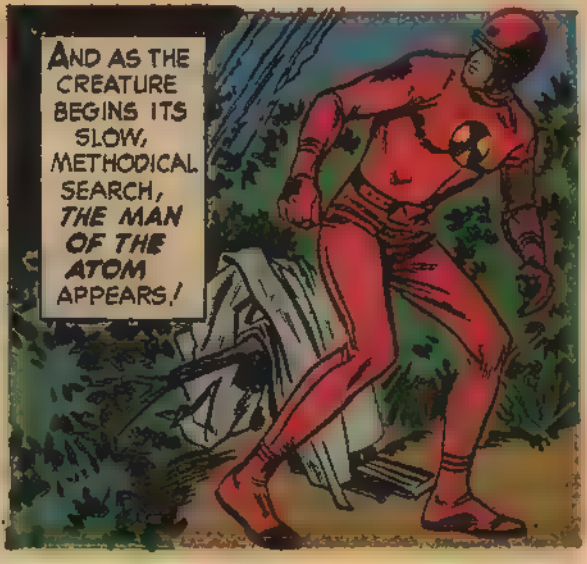

RADIO-ACTIVE CAPSULES TAKEN SECRETLY DURING THE RIDE GIVE SOLAR RESERVE ENERGY. HE ROLLS DOWN THE HILL AND --OUT OF SIGHT!
BUT FIRST, I MUST ESCAPE LONG ENOUGH TO RETURN TO ATOM VALLEY AND *RESTORE* MY RADIO-ACTIVE POWERS SO I CAN BE *READY* FOR HIS MASTER!


INSTANTLY, AT NURO'S SECRET HIDE OUT, A WARNING LIGHT BLINKS...
THE ANDROID HAS *LOST* HIS PRISONER!
HE *MUST* FIND HIM!

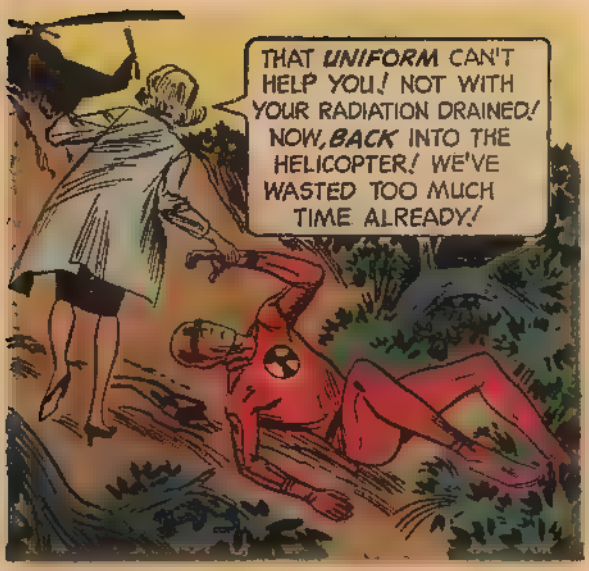
HE HASN'T BEEN PROGRAMMED TO SEARCH VISUALLY FOR---
---I WANT *NO EXCUSES!*

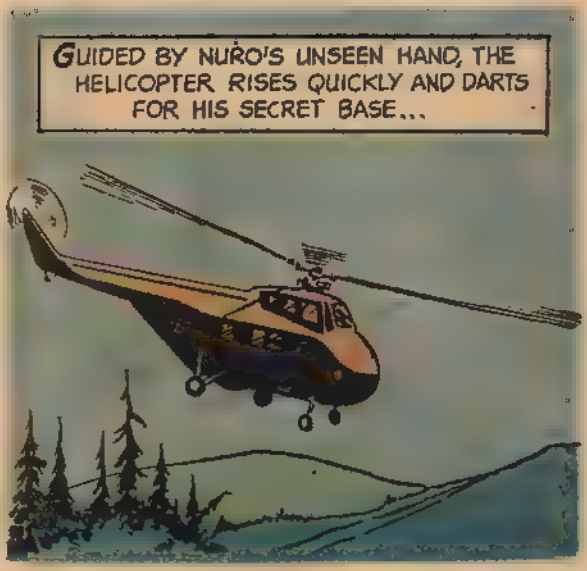
UNDER A RAIN OF ANGRY BLOWS, THE PROFESSOR CLUTCHES HIS HEART AND STUMBLES FORWARD, FALLING TO THE FLOOR...
THE FOOL IS *DEAD!*---I'LL HAVE TO DIRECT THE ANDROID *MYSELF!*

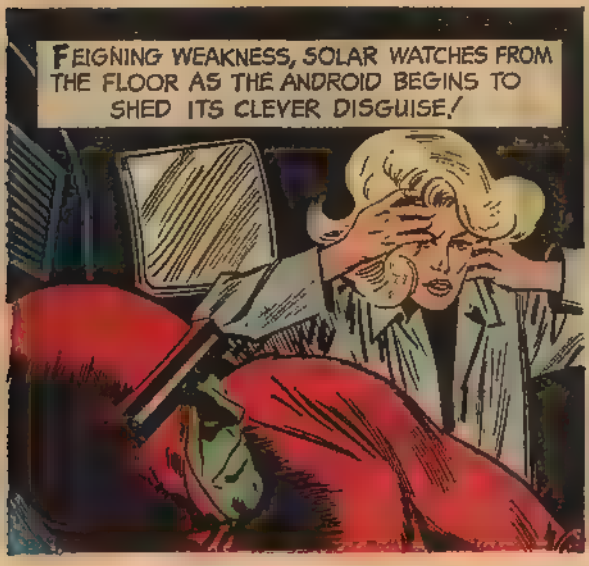
MEANWHILE, HIDDEN FROM THE ANDROID, DR. SOLAR STRIPS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHES...

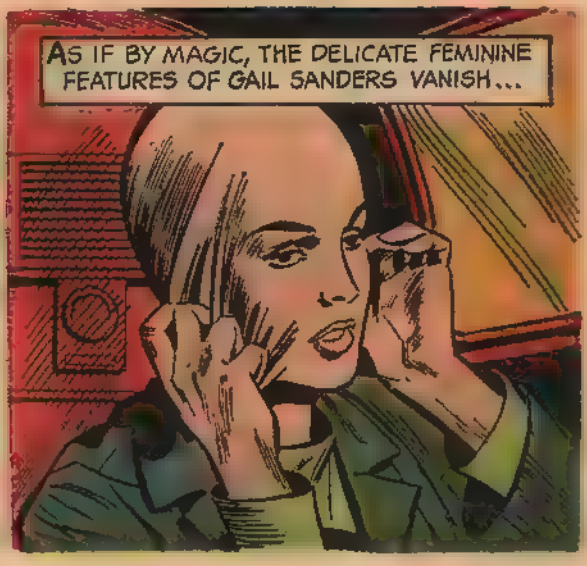

AND AS THE CREATURE BEGINS ITS SLOW, METHODICAL SEARCH, *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* APPEARS!

QUICKLY HE CHANGES HIS ATOMIC STRUCTURE INTO A BEAM OF NUCLEAR LIGHT...
AND AT THE FANTASTIC SPEED OF 186,000 MILES PER SECOND, THE MAN OF THE ATOM HEADS TOWARD ATOM VALLEY...
REACHING THE NUCLEAR REACTOR UNSEEN, HE CHANGES BACK INTO HUMAN FORM, AS A LIFE-SUSTAINING STREAM OF RADIATION ENVELOPS HIS REINVIGORATED BODY...
HIS POWERS RESTORED, SOLAR LEAVES AS HE CAME--- IN A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT, MATERIALIZING ON THE SLOPE HE LEFT BUT MINUTES BEFORE...
AS SUDDENLY, A TRIUMPHANT VOICE BOOMS OUT...
THERE YOU ARE! AND THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE!


THAT *UNIFORM* CAN'T HELP YOU! NOT WITH YOUR RADIATION DRAINED! NOW, *BACK* INTO THE HELICOPTER! WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY!

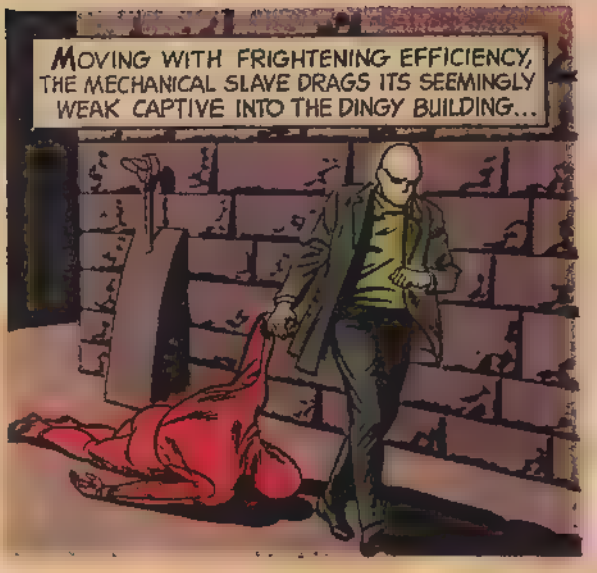

GUIDED BY NURO'S UNSEEN HAND, THE HELICOPTER RISES QUICKLY AND DARTS FOR HIS SECRET BASE...

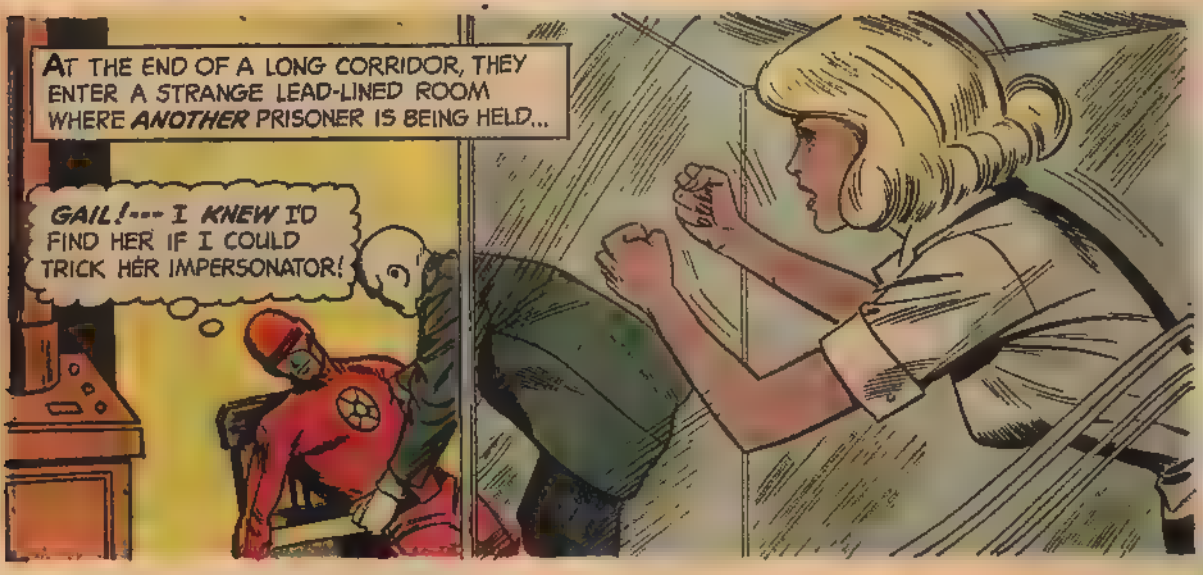

FEIGNING WEAKNESS, SOLAR WATCHES FROM THE FLOOR AS THE ANDROID BEGINS TO SHED ITS CLEVER DISGUISE!

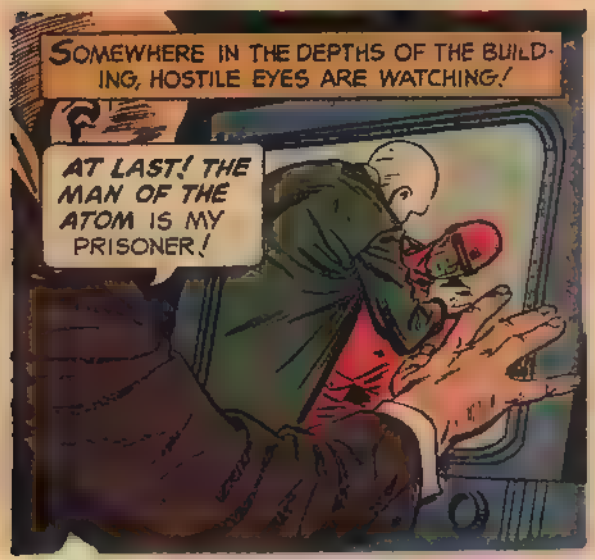

AS IF BY MAGIC, THE DELICATE FEMININE FEATURES OF GAIL SANDERS VANISH...

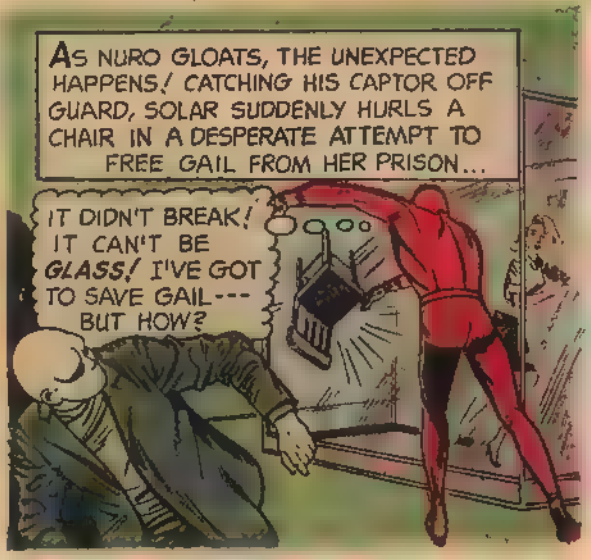
AND IN PLACE OF THE BEAUTY, A MENACING FACELESS CREATION IS REVEALED!

MINUTES LATER, THE HELICOPTER HOVERS OVER NURO'S OMINOUS BASE...
LOOKS LIKE OUR RIDE ENDS HERE! WITH LUCK, THIS ANDROID'S CAREER WILL END HERE TOO!

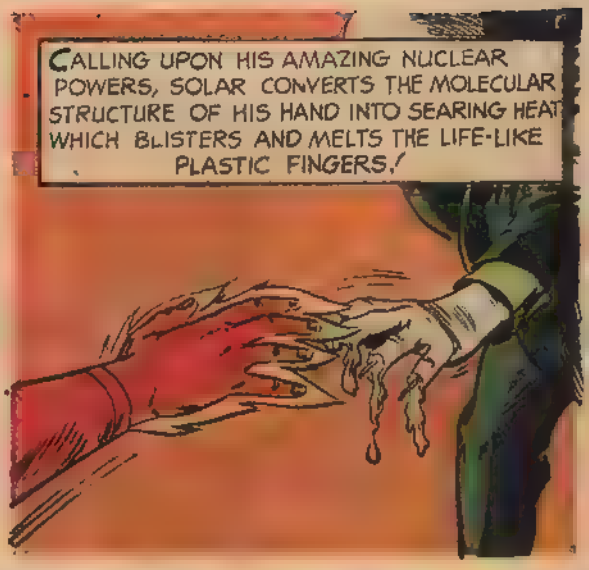

MOVING WITH FRIGHTENING EFFICIENCY, THE MECHANICAL SLAVE DRAGS ITS SEEMINGLY WEAK CAPTIVE INTO THE DINGY BUILDING...

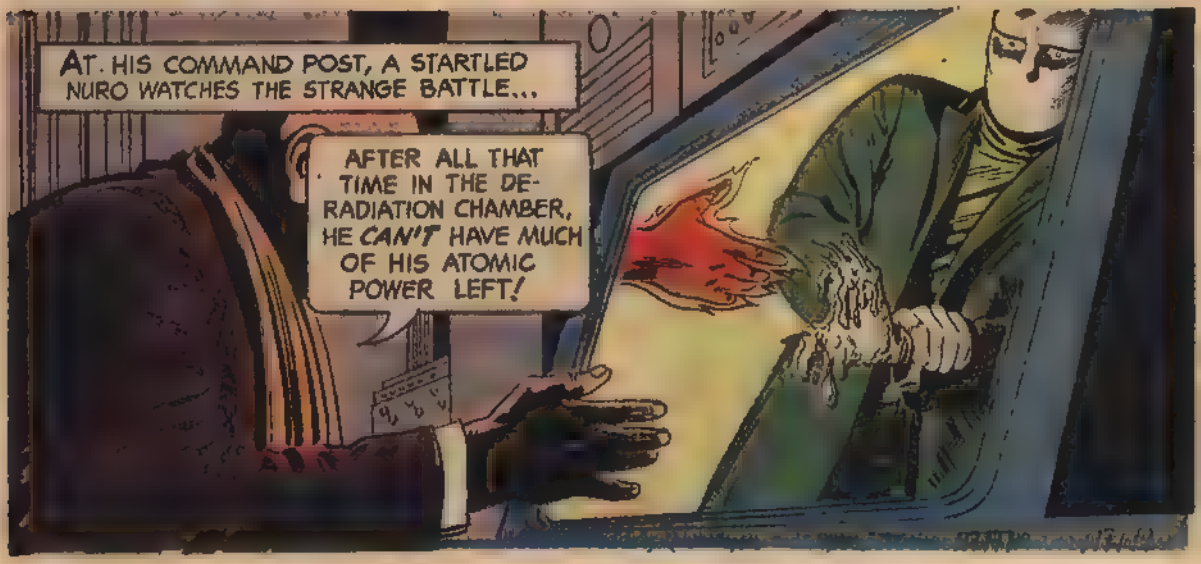

AT THE END OF A LONG CORRIDOR, THEY ENTER A STRANGE LEAD-LINED ROOM WHERE ANOTHER PRISONER IS BEING HELD...
GAIL!--- I KNEW I'D FIND HER IF I COULD TRICK HER IMPERSONATOR!

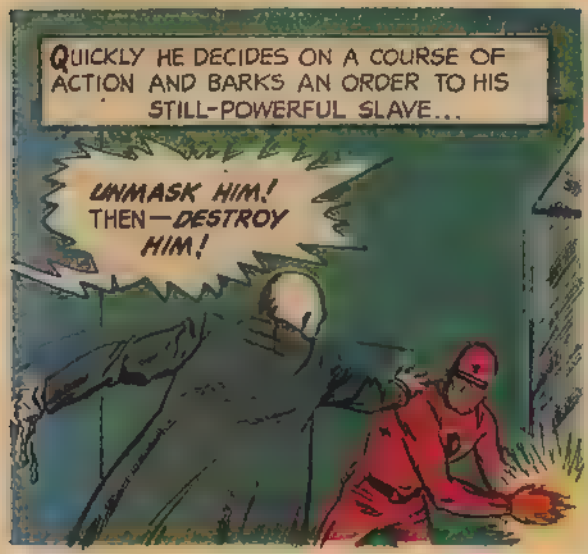

SOMEWHERE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE BUILDING, HOSTILE EYES ARE WATCHING!
AT LAST! THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS MY PRISONER!

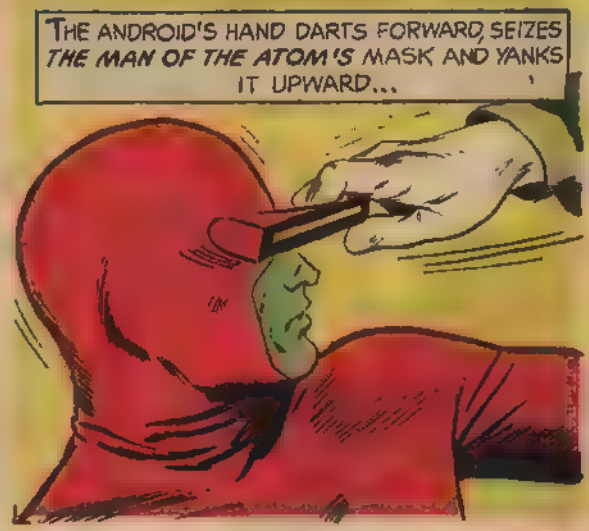

AS NURO GLOATS, THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS! CATCHING HIS CAPTOR OFF GUARD, SOLAR SUDDENLY HURLS A CHAIR IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO FREE GAIL FROM HER PRISON...
IT DIDN'T BREAK! IT CAN'T BE GLASS! I'VE GOT TO SAVE GAIL--- BUT HOW?

RESPONDING TO A COMMAND FROM ITS MASTER, THE ANDROID LUNGES FOR SOLAR! BUT THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS READY FOR THE ATTACK!


CALLING UPON HIS AMAZING NUCLEAR POWERS, SOLAR CONVERTS THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF HIS HAND INTO SEARING HEAT WHICH BLISTERS AND MELTS THE LIFE-LIKE PLASTIC FINGERS!

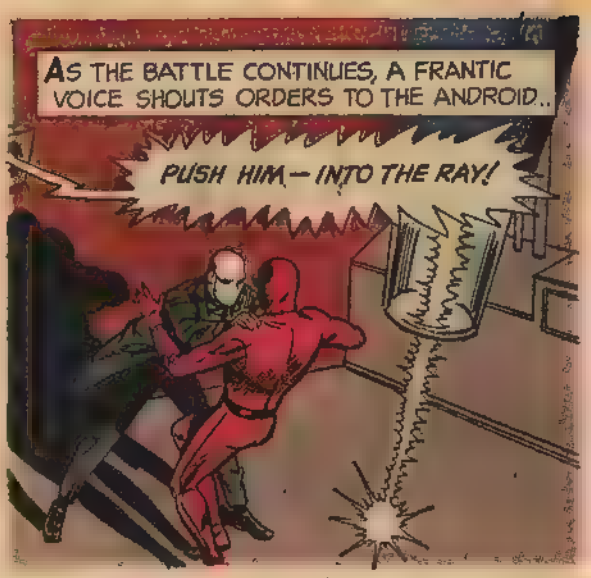

AT HIS COMMAND POST, A STARTLED NURO WATCHES THE STRANGE BATTLE...
AFTER ALL THAT TIME IN THE DE-RADIATION CHAMBER, HE CAN'T HAVE MUCH OF HIS ATOMIC POWER LEFT!

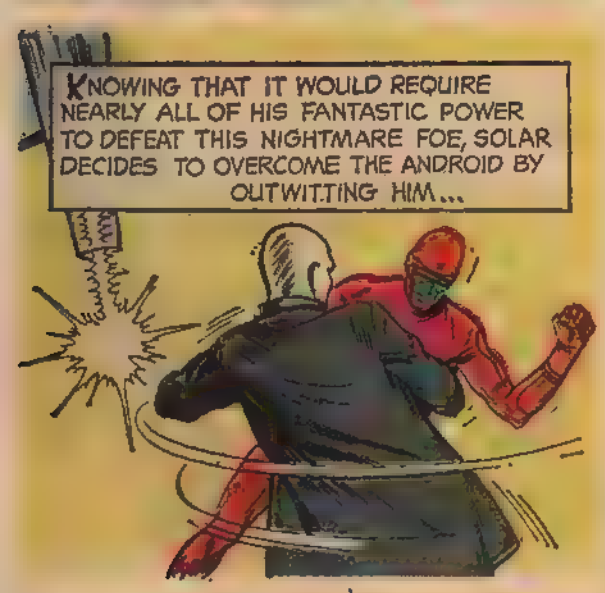

QUICKLY HE DECIDES ON A COURSE OF ACTION AND BARKS AN ORDER TO HIS STILL-POWERFUL SLAVE...
UNMASK HIM! THEN—DESTROY HIM!

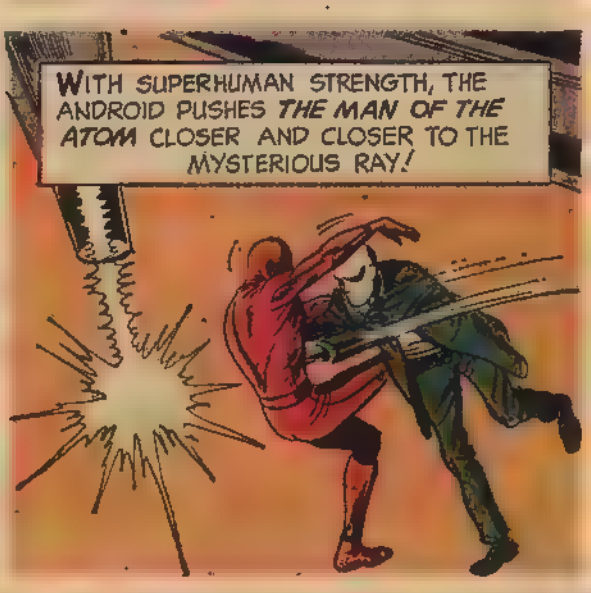

THE ANDROID'S HAND DARTS FORWARD, SEIZES THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S MASK AND YANKS IT UPWARD...

BUT AS THE MASK IS PULLED AWAY, THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S FACE GLOWS WITH BLINDING, INCANDESCENT ATOMIC LIGHT...
EVEN THROUGH THE TV MONITOR, THE LIGHT IS BLINDING!
M-MY EYES...
STUNNED AND SURPRISED, THE ANDROID STUMBLES BACK! SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE, THE MAN OF THE ATOM REPLACES HIS MASK, THEN HURLS A HEAVY CHAIR AT NURO'S TELEVISION CAMERA...
THIS SHOULD GIVE US A LITTLE MORE PRIVACY!
SMASH!
NO LONGER ABLE TO SEE INTO THE ROOM, NURO CHANGES HIS ORDER TO EXPOSE THE MAN OF THE ATOM AND NOW CONCENTRATES ON ELIMINATING HIM!
I AM TURNING ON THE RAY! USE IT! USE IT AND DESTROY HIM!

WHAT WILL THAT BEAM DO TO DR. SOLAR? IF I COULD ONLY HELP HIM---


AS THE BATTLE CONTINUES, A FRANTIC VOICE SHOUTS ORDERS TO THE ANDROID..
PUSH HIM — INTO THE RAY!

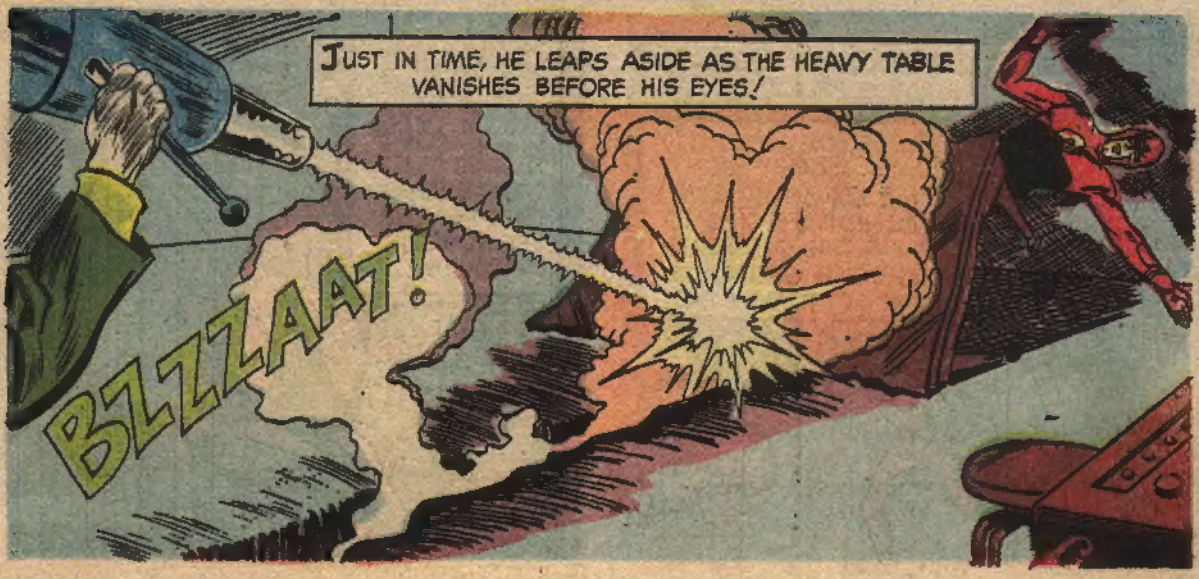

KNOWING THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE NEARLY ALL OF HIS FANTASTIC POWER TO DEFEAT THIS NIGHTMARE FOE, SOLAR DECIDES TO OVERCOME THE ANDROID BY OUTWITTING HIM...


WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, THE ANDROID PUSHES THE MAN OF THE ATOM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE MYSTERIOUS RAY!

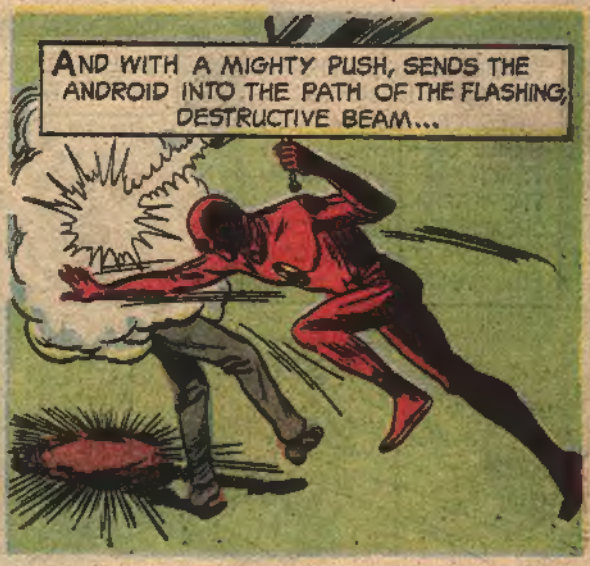
SUDDENLY, SOLAR MAKES AN UNEXPECTED MOVE! SPINNING HIS BODY, HE MANAGES TO TURN THE LUMBERING HUMAN-LIKE HULK REELING TOWARD THE BEAM THAT FLARES AND FLASHES MENACINGLY!

DESPERATELY TRYING TO REGAIN ITS BALANCE, THE ANDROID'S ARM ACCIDENTALLY SLIPS INTO THE PATH OF LIGHT! IN A SECOND THE ARM IS VAPORIZED!
DANGLING FROM THE ANDROID'S SHOULDER IS A MASS OF USELESS WIRES AND CONNECTIONS THAT SUDDENLY VANISH UNDER THE DEADLY BEAM...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS-- A DISINTEGRATING RAY!
SUDDENLY, THE ANDROID LASHES OUT VENGEFULLY WITH HIS REMAINING HAND...
...AND THE SURPRISED MAN OF THE ATOM IS THROWN OFF BALANCE!
AS SOLAR CRASHES TO THE FLOOR, THE MONSTER'S HAND WHIPS FORWARD...

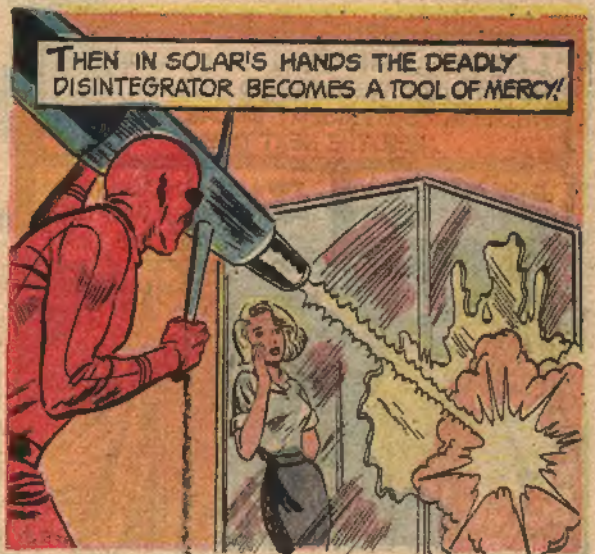
WITH A FIRM GRIP ON SOLAR'S FOOT, THE ANDROID ONCE AGAIN SEEMS IN COMMAND!
NO! STOP! DON'T PUT HIM UNDER THAT RAY!
ONCE AGAIN SOLAR PROVES HIMSELF ABLE TO OUTSMART THE MECHANICAL MIND! WITH HIS FREE FOOT HE LASHES OUT AND MOMENTARILY CONFUSES HIS ENEMY...
BUT THE ANDROID'S REFLEXES ARE STILL KEEN! AS SOLAR GETS TO HIS FEET, THE ROBOT RUSHES FOR THE DEATH-DEALING MACHINE!
AS THE NOZZLE OF THE DISINTEGRATING RAY IS TURNED ON HIM, SOLAR QUICKLY DARTS BEHIND A HEAVY TABLE FOR PROTECTION!
THE DEADLY RAY RUSHES ACROSS THE THICK LEAD FLOOR LEAVING A PATH OF DESTRUCTION BEHIND IT! AND SOLAR REALIZES THAT IT CAN DISINTEGRATE ANYTHING--INCLUDING THE TABLE AND HIMSELF!
BZZZAAT!

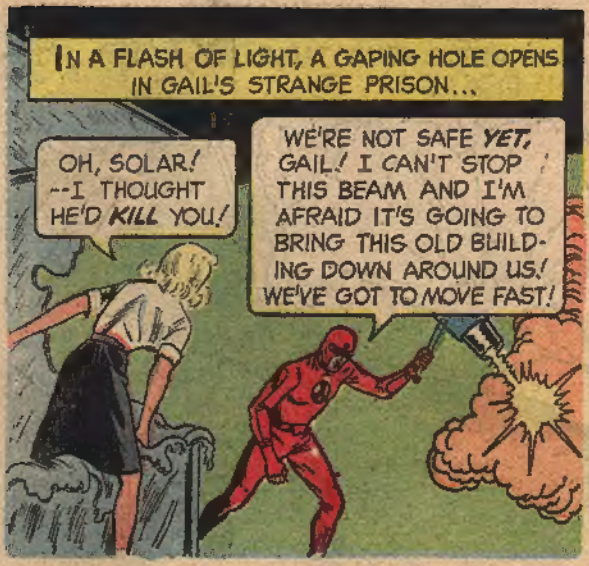

JUST IN TIME, HE LEAPS ASIDE AS THE HEAVY TABLE VANISHES BEFORE HIS EYES!
BLZZAAT!

WITHOUT STOPPING, HE MAKES A FLYING LEAP...
BLZAT!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

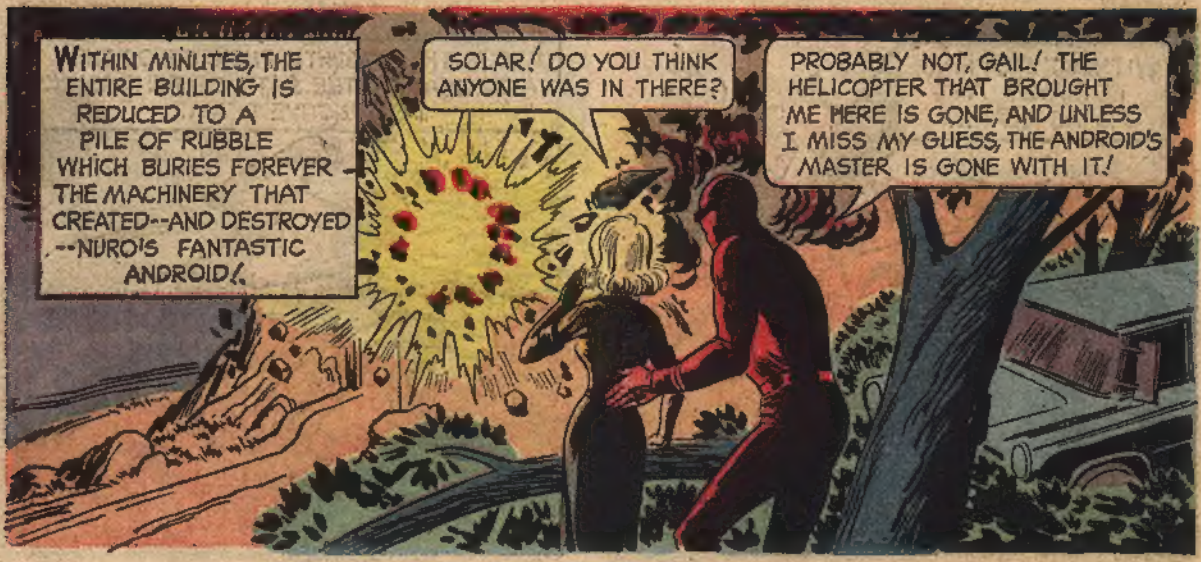

AND WITH A MIGHTY PUSH, SENDS THE ANDROID INTO THE PATH OF THE FLASHING, DESTRUCTIVE BEAM...

IN A FLASH NURO'S MURDEROUS, CUNNING CREATION VANISHES, A VICTIM OF HIS OWN WEAPON!
NOW TO SEE IF THIS BEAM CAN *FREE* GAIL!


THEN IN SOLAR'S HANDS THE DEADLY DISINTEGRATOR BECOMES A TOOL OF MERCY!


IN A FLASH OF LIGHT, A GAPING HOLE OPENS IN GAIL'S STRANGE PRISON...
OH, SOLAR! --I THOUGHT HE'D KILL YOU!
WE'RE NOT SAFE YET, GAIL! I CAN'T STOP THIS BEAM AND I'M AFRAID IT'S GOING TO BRING THIS OLD BUILDING DOWN AROUND US! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!

QUICKLY THEY RUSH FOR THE GREAT FRONT GATE REACHING IT JUST AS HUGE CRACKS BEGIN TO APPEAR IN THE MASSIVE WALLS...


WITHIN MINUTES, THE ENTIRE BUILDING IS REDUCED TO A PILE OF RUBBLE WHICH BURIES FOREVER THE MACHINERY THAT CREATED--AND DESTROYED --NURO'S FANTASTIC ANDROID!
SOLAR! DO YOU THINK ANYONE WAS IN THERE?
PROBABLY NOT, GAIL! THE HELICOPTER THAT BROUGHT ME HERE IS GONE, AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THE ANDROID'S MASTER IS GONE WITH IT!

LEAVING AS SHE CAME--IN A LAUNDRY TRUCK--GAIL RETURNS TO ATOM VALLEY WHERE A "SURPRISED" SOLAR GREETS HER THE NEXT DAY...
GAIL! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'D LIKE AN ANSWER FIRST, GAIL! WHY DID YOU HIT ME LIKE THAT?

HIT YOU, THOR? --I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ATOMIC ENERGY

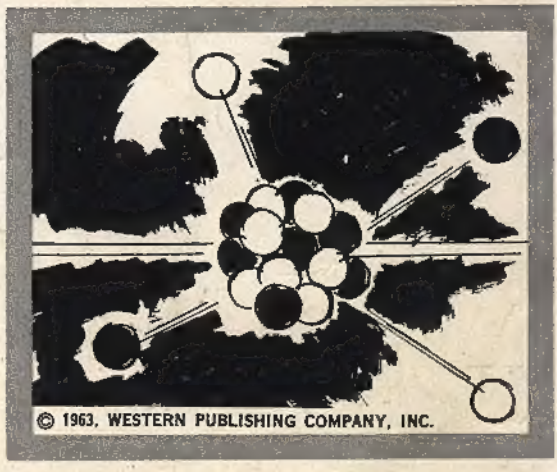
NUMBER 5

THE CHAIN REACTION

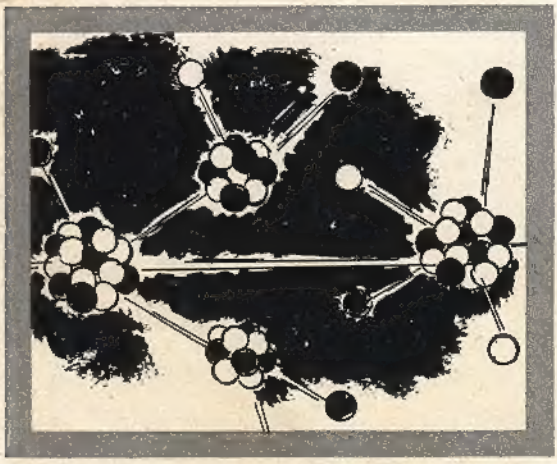
This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

Atomic energy depends on the right set of conditions of nuclear fission plus a process known as a chain reaction. Try this:

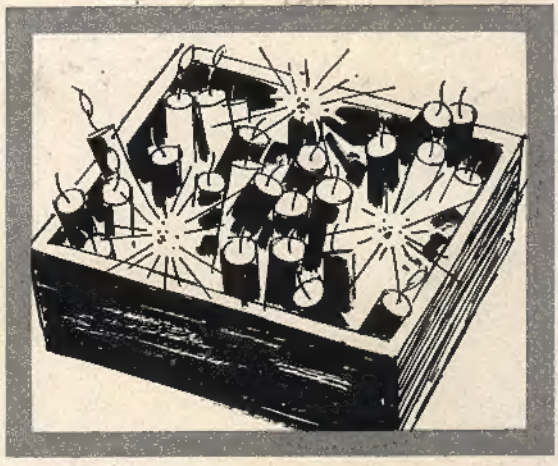
Set up your own simple chain reaction by lining up some dominoes so that when you hit one, they all will fall down in order.



But the chain reaction in fissile matter is different. The nucleus fissions when it is hit with neutrons, releasing more energy.



Thus each proton or neutron, thrown loose by the fission, zooms about, frequently striking another nucleus, building energy,



—and loosing more and more nuclear particles to strike other atoms, like exploding a firecracker in a box of firecrackers.

SOLAR PIN-UP NO. 6